

WAR ON TERRORISM
Breakaway Taliban group declares immediate truce with Afghan government
Page 2

MILITARY
Mattis works to soothe allies uncomfortable with Trump's combative tone
Page 9

FACES
Imagine Dragons frontman breaks down strategies for staying fit, healthy on tour
Page 18



Justify wins Triple Crown at Belmont » Horse racing, Back page

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Building the cyber Corps

Marines weigh wooing older, more experienced members

By JULIE WATSON
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO

The head of the Marine Corps says it's time the U.S. military branch known for its fierce, young warriors becomes a little more mature.

The Marine Corps is considering offering bonuses and other perks to entice older, more ex-

perienced Marines to re-enlist as it builds up its cyberoperations to defend the nation, especially against cyberattacks from Russia and China. About 62 percent of Marines are 25 or younger, with many serving only four years.

The move marks a historic change that could transform a force made up primarily of high school graduates, lured by the bravado and

SEE OLDER ON PAGE 8

Trump, Kim in Singapore for summit

By ANNA FIFIELD
AND PHILIP RUCKER
The Washington Post

SINGAPORE — President Donald Trump arrived here Sunday night ahead of a potentially historic summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, the first meeting between the leaders of two countries that have been sworn enemies for almost seven decades.

Air Force One touched down with little fanfare at Paya Lebar Air Base in Singapore,

“Within the first minute, I’ll know. My touch, my feel — that’s what I do.”

President Donald Trump on his ability to size up Kim’s intentions

landing a few hours after Kim arrived in the island state. Trump waved as he stepped off the presidential aircraft, briefly greeted Singaporean officials on the tarmac and quickly climbed into a limousine to head to his hotel for the evening. Asked upon his arrival how he was feeling about the summit, Trump told reporters, “Very good.”

Trump and Kim are scheduled to meet face-to-face Tuesday morning. It remains far from clear what kind of agreement on North Korea’s nuclear program the two leaders will be able to forge.

Trump was upbeat as he departed Canada on Saturday for his daylong journey halfway around the globe, which included a refueling stop on the Greek island of Crete. The president told reporters he would rely on his intuition to size up Kim’s intentions regarding a deal to abandon his nuclear arsenal.

“Within the first minute, I’ll know,” he said. “My touch, my feel — that’s what I do.”

SEE SUMMIT ON PAGE 4

WAR ON TERRORISM

Taliban splinter group declares open-ended truce

By CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — A breakaway Taliban group has declared a truce with the Afghan government following news last week that Kabul would stand down its offensive operations against insurgents at the end of Ramadan through the Eid al-Fitr holiday.

The splinter group, led by Mullah Mohammad Rasul, said late Saturday its stand-down would begin immediately and last until an unspecified future date.

The group promised that government employees would be free to enter areas under its control during the cease-fire. One of several factions that have broken away from the Taliban's core, known as the Quetta Shura, the Rasul group is mainly active in southern and western Afghanistan.

In announcing its cease-fire, it acknowledged it was reciprocating the government's eight-day truce, unlike the main Taliban group, which had earlier announced a

three-day cease-fire during the Eid holiday without mention of Kabul's peace gesture.

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani announced a unilateral cease-fire Thursday, a gambit intended to apply pressure to the Taliban as Afghan civilians have begun pleading more vocally for peace after decades of conflict. It followed a religious edict that said the insurgency violated Islamic law.

Speaking to Stars and Stripes, a Rasul group official acknowledged the public's recent calls for an end to fighting.

"Peace is the order of almighty Allah," said Maulawi Abdul Rahman Niazi, a former member and spokesman of the Rasul group's high peace council. "Afghans are tired of fighting and they are thirsty for peace."

Kabul has been seeking to woo breakaway commanders to lay down their weapons and work out a political settlement to the nearly 17-year insurgency and isolate the

Taliban leadership based in Quetta, Pakistan.

A representative of Rasul's group had reportedly met with Afghan officials to informally discuss peace talks in Turkey last winter, though the meeting was later denied by all sides. Kabul and the Rasul group have also denied reports that the government supplied the faction with cash, ammunition and weapons to fight its Taliban rivals.

The group split off from the core Taliban in 2015 following news that the group's founder, Mullah Mohammad Omar, had died two years earlier in Pakistan and that his death had been hidden from many of his followers.

The news caused a deep rift among insurgent commanders. Many leaders rejected the selection of Mullah Akhtar Mohammad Mansour as Omar's successor and objected to the group's establishment of a political office in Qatar, a country that they accused of making secret

deals with the U.S. government.

The Taliban established the office in Qatar ostensibly for peace talks with Western powers in an Islamic country they considered neutral, though the Persian Gulf kingdom has long allowed the U.S. military to use its Al Udeid Air Base to launch aerial attacks on the Taliban and other militant groups in Afghanistan.

Peace talks fell apart after news of Omar's death became public, and efforts to restart them have largely been unsuccessful. U.S. officials have said stepped-up airstrikes and increased troop numbers in Afghanistan are aimed at forcing a restart of those talks.

Shortly after breaking away and selecting Rasul as its leader, the splinter group said it had no problems with the Afghan government and would be willing to talk peace if foreign forces left the country.

"We have always stressed that we should solve the problem of Afghanistan through dialogs between Afghans," the group said in

its cease-fire announcement.

The core of the Taliban has also called for the withdrawal of foreign forces as a condition for peace talks, though it has sought to negotiate with Washington, not the Kabul government, which it regards as a puppet of Western powers.

Now headed by Mawlawi Hibatullah Akhundzada after a U.S. drone strike killed Mansour in Pakistan in 2016, the main Taliban group said its cease-fire during the three days of the Eid celebration would apply only to government forces, not their foreign backers.

In the meantime, insurgents have continued to carry out attacks on Afghan forces. A series of deadly assaults late Friday killed dozens of Afghan military and police in Kunduz, Herat and Kandahar provinces.

Zubair Babakarkhail contributed to this report.
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Servicemembers injured in Somalia attack treated; dead soldier ID'd

By ABDI GULED
Associated Press

MOGADISHU, Somalia — Four U.S. servicemembers who were wounded in an extremist attack in Somalia that killed one special operations soldier have been treated and discharged, the U.S. military said Saturday.

A U.S. Africa Command statement said the four were in the care of the U.S. Embassy medical team in neighboring Kenya. They were awaiting transport "for additional medical evaluation."

The Pentagon said Staff Sgt. Alexander

W. Conrad, 26, of Chandler, Ariz., died Friday of injuries sustained from what it called enemy indirect fire. He was assigned to 1st Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group, Fort Bragg, N.C. The names of those wounded were not released.

Conrad joined the Army in June 2010 and deployed as a human intelligence collector twice to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, once for nine months in 2012-13 and once for four months in 2014, according to a biography released by U.S. Army Special Operations Command.

After graduating from a French language course at the Defense Language Institute



Conrad

Foreign Language Center in 2016, Conrad was assigned to 3rd Group as a human intelligence noncommissioned officer.

Among his other training were Army Airborne School and a series of human intelligence courses.

Conrad's various awards and decorations include three Army Commendation Medals, an Army Achievement Medal, Af-

ghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and the Combat Action Badge. He was posthumously awarded a Purple Heart and Meritorious Service Medal.

This was the first public announcement of a U.S. military combat death in Africa since four U.S. servicemembers were killed in a militant ambush in the West African nation of Niger in October.

Friday's attack in Jubaland is likely to put renewed scrutiny on America's counterterrorism operations in Africa.

Stars and Stripes reporter Chad Garland in Kabul, Afghanistan, contributed to this report.

TODAY IN STRIPES

- American Roundup 17
- Business 20
- Classified 19, 23
- Comics 22
- Crossword 22
- Faces 18
- Opinion 14-15
- Sports 25-32
- Weather 20

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PACIFIC



South Korean soldiers stand in formation near the Daejeon train station during the Korean War.

PHOTOS BY THOMAS HUTTON/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Army colonel donates rare Korean War photos

By MARCUS FICHTL
Stars and Stripes

GYERYONG, South Korea — A U.S. Army colonel has donated to the South Korean army hundreds of color Korean War photographs that provide a rare glimpse into daily life away from the front lines.

Col. Brandon Newton handed over 239 images taken by his grandfather, then-Master Sgt. Thomas Hutton, during a ceremony Tuesday at the South Korean Army Personnel Command headquarters in Gyeryong, about 90 miles south of Seoul.

"[The photos] provide a very accurate and important history of what Korea was like in 1952," Newton said. "It helps us understand our alliance is not just about the relationship between our militaries but also between our people."

Hutton's photos were shot mostly near the cities of Daegu and Daejeon, where he was assigned to the 91st Ordnance Company. Some images show locals walking along dirt streets completing their daily chores, while others give a behind-the-scenes peek at American and South Korean soldiers living and working together.

South Korean Maj. Gen. Kim Mon Gon told Newton after the ceremony it was the photos of the South Korean troops that makes the images so special to his army because it was rare at the time for anyone in impoverished South Korea to own a camera.

"This is very valuable for us," Kim said. "It will help us study the future from the past."

The images may have never left Newton's cellphone if it wasn't for a chance encounter with South Korean Master Sgt. Park Young Ju.

Last summer — as the two shared a few beers outside Camp Red Cloud, where Newton serves as Area I garrison commander —

he showed Park the hundreds of photos he had digitized from a series of old Korean War-era slides passed around his family after his grandfather died years ago.

An early photo of some of the first KATUSAs — Korean augments to the U.S. Army — immediately sparked Park's interest because he leads modern KATUSAs assigned to the 55th Military Police Company at Camp Casey.

Park had been on the lookout for photos to fill the new KATUSA museum being built at Camp Humphreys.

"I saw the pictures on [Newton's] cellphone and told him these need to be in a museum," he said.

Park contacted his bosses, who then got in touch with the South Korean army archives, setting the stage for Tuesday's ceremony.

Newton said his grandfather — a great showman — would have been in the spotlight.

"He would have been more proud of the fawning over his photographic ability ... than the photos' implication of the South Korean-U.S. alliance," Newton said with a laugh.

Newton called his grandfather the epitome of a noncommissioned officer who "made it out of nothing," bouncing around the west during the Dust Bowl era before enlisting in the Army.

He then served in the Indo-Burma theater during World War II and began honing his photography skills in occupied Japan. When the Korean War started, he shipped over with a 35 mm camera and a charge to lead young soldiers into war.

A small exhibition of Hutton's photos was organized at the South Korean army base in Gyeryong. The full set of images are being archived and restored, and there are no immediate plans for future showings.

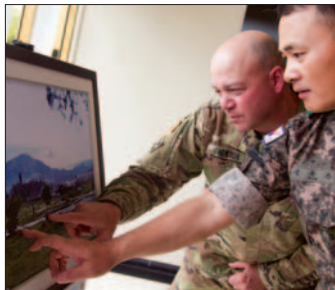
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South Koreans walk down a street in Daejeon in 1952 during the Korean War.



Left: South Koreans go about their daily lives near Daejeon Station. Right: Army Col. Brandon Newton, left, Area I garrison commander, and South Korean Maj. Gen. Kim Mon Gon examine a photo taken by Newton's grandfather, Master Sgt. Thomas Hutton, in Gyeryong, South Korea.



MARCUS FICHTL/Stars and Stripes

PACIFIC

Summit: Meeting part of flurry of diplomacy by N. Korea's leader this year

FROM FRONT PAGE

Singapore's prime minister, Lee Hsien Loong, welcomed Kim and his entourage to the Istana, his palatial office, for talks laying the groundwork for Tuesday's summit. Trump is due to meet with Lee on Monday.

"From our point of view, it's important that the meeting take place and that the meeting sets developments on a new trajectory — one that will be conducive to the security and stability of the region," Lee told reporters here earlier in the afternoon.

Kim and Trump will sit down for talks at 9 a.m. Tuesday at the Capella Hotel on the resort island of Sentosa, usually better known for hosting Singapore's Universal Studios amusement park.

Video broadcast by the prime minister's office showed Kim and Lee shaking hands and posing for photos at the Istana on Sunday evening. Kim could then be seen introducing Lee to his senior officials while Kim's sister and close aide, Kim Yo Jong, could be seen in the background.

The North Korean leader landed at Singapore's Changi airport shortly before 3 p.m. local time Sunday and traveled in his armored Mercedes-Benz limousine through one of the island state's swankiest shopping districts to the five-star St. Regis Hotel.

The streets were lined with tourists and journalists trying to catch a glimpse of the enigmatic North Korean leader, who has embarked on his farthest journey since taking power at the end of 2011 — and the journey with the highest stakes.

Kim has engaged in a flurry of diplomacy this year, holding two meetings with South Korean President Moon Jae-in and two with China's Xi Jinping, leading to this first-ever summit between a North Korean leader and a sitting U.S. president.

After overseeing rapid advances in North Korea's nuclear and missile technology last year, Kim now appears to be turning his attention to his country's economy and particularly to getting rid of the international sanctions that are hampering its growth.

The nuclear program has enabled Kim to project confidence, analysts say, and he is now trying to metamorphose from a nuclear-armed tyrant into a responsible international statesman.

Travel intrigue

Kim's 3,000-mile journey from North Korea was full of intrigue, with three planes departing from Pyongyang on Sunday morning.

The first was a cargo plane believed to be carrying vehicles and supplies for the North Korean leader.

The second was an Air China Boeing 747, usually used by the Chinese government to carry high-level officials, that took off at 8:30 a.m., about an hour after it arrived from Beijing.

Then Kim's private jet, a Soviet-made Ilushin-62, officially called "Chammyeong" after North Korea's national bird but



The motorcade carrying North Korean leader Kim Jong Un travels down Singapore's Orchard Boulevard on its way to the St. Regis Hotel on Sunday.

sometimes jokingly referred to as "Air Force One," departed about 10 a.m. local time.

Kim had taken that third plane when he traveled to the Chinese city of Dalian in May to meet President Xi Jinping, a trip that was viewed as a practice run for the Singapore journey.

But Kim was in fact on the Air China plane, despite the fact that Singapore, which is 3,000 miles from Pyongyang, was technically within reach of his jet, which can fly 6,200 miles.

His sister arrived in Singapore on the North Korean jet about an hour after her brother.

Commentators in South Korea speculated that this was part of an effort to create a decoy so that no one — not even the Chinese — knew which plane the North Korean leader was traveling on.

Kim Jong Un was greeted at Changi Airport by Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan, who had just returned from a five-day trip to Washington and Pyongyang.

The North Korean leader was accompanied by officials including Kim Yong Chol, a top aide who delivered a letter to Trump in the White House earlier this month; Ri Su Yong, who is in charge of international relations in the ruling communist Workers' Party and was ambassador to Switzerland



President Donald Trump arrives Sunday at Paya Lebar Air Base in Singapore for a summit with Kim Jong Un.

while Kim Jong Un was at school there; and foreign minister Ri Yong Ho.

Television footage showed they traveled from the airport in a large convey of vehicles with a heavy police guard.

Kim Jong Un appeared to be in a black Mercedes-Benz stretch limousine like the one he used for the inter-Korean summit in April. Although he was not visible through the black-tinted windows, the car was flying a North Korean flag and the ensign of North Korea's State Affairs Commission, of which Kim is the chairman.

The leader went straight to the St. Regis Hotel, a place that his older half brother, Kim Jong Nam, was known to frequent. Kim Jong Nam, who lived in Macau, was killed in a chemical weapon attack in Kuala Lumpur airport last year — an assassination widely believed to have been ordered by Kim Jong Un to eliminate a potential rival for power.

The 3,600-square-foot presidential suite at the St. Regis goes for about \$8,000 per night. It has

its own private gym and Jacuzzi, a baby grand piano, custom-made Czech crystal chandeliers and artwork including a Marc Chagall painting.

It is not clear who is picking up the tab for Kim Jong Un's stay.

Singapore's prime minister has said his government is spending about \$15 million in total on hosting the summit, but he did not say whether that included hosting the North Korean leader.

The White House had been exploring whether the U.S. could or should cover the costs for Kim Jong Un to attend the summit.

Security was tight outside the hotel, with all cars being inspected and curtains and large posted plants shielding the entrance.

Only guests were being allowed into the hotel, and both Singaporean police and North Korean guards were keeping watch.

Thorny issue

Kim Jong Un, who came to power in North Korea at age 27 with no qualifications other than having been born into the totalitarian family that has ruled the state with an iron grip since 1948, has shown eagerness for this summit.

After Trump abruptly called off the summit late last month, citing North Korea's "tremendous anger," the Kim regime immediately made clear it still wanted to talk and hurriedly arranged a second face-to-face meeting between Kim Jong Un and North Korea's Moon to get the preparations back on track.

Departing from Canada, where he had been attending a G-7 meeting, Trump signaled that he had high hopes that Kim would deliver.

"I think that he's going to surprise on the upside, very much on the upside. We'll see," Trump said at a news conference in Quebec on Saturday. "But this has never been done, never been tested."

Trump had been trying to lower expectations, saying that he wanted at a minimum to "start a dialogue" with Kim and acknowledging that this would be a process, not a quick diplomatic success.

The summit will tackle of the thorny issue of North Korea's nuclear program, a problem that has bedeviled diplomats for a quarter-century and has become only more difficult with the astonishing advances of last year.

But the concerted efforts to reduce expectations suggested that the summit would go smoothly, said Joseph Yun, who was the State Department's point man on North Korea until February.

"If it's just a meet-and-greet — a 'getting to know you' as Trump would say — then it will still be welcome in the region, in Singapore and in South Korea and in Japan," Yun said.

But the U.S. would be seeking a commitment to denuclearization — North Korea agreeing to get rid of all its fissile material and intercontinental ballistic missiles — while Kim would want a pledge to end the Korean War and be given assurances about his security.

"If we get that, we will have a successful summit kicking off the diplomatic process," Yun said.

The Korean War ended in an armistice, not a peace treaty, in 1953, and that agreement was signed by North Korea and China on one side and the U.S. on behalf of the United Nations on the other.

Balakrishnan, the Singaporean foreign minister, said that during his meetings in Pyongyang and Washington he saw "sincerity and a desire from both sides to make the summit a success."

"I see a desire, a willingness to escape the constraints that have applied for the last seven decades — so with goodwill and creativity, let's see what they come up with," he told reporters after flying from Pyongyang to Beijing on Saturday.

‘If it’s just a meet-and-greet — a ‘getting to know you,’ as Trump would say — then it will still be welcome in the region, in Singapore and in South Korea and in Japan.’

Joseph Yun
former State Department official

JOSEPH NAI/AP

EVAN VUCCI/AP

PACIFIC

For Kim, meeting is about cementing power at home

By ANNA FIFIELD
The Washington Post

SINGAPORE — Kim Jong Un has chalked up a lot of firsts since taking power at the end of 2011: His country's first hydrogen bomb test. Its first launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile. And the first crossing of the demilitarized zone by a North Korean leader since the Korean War.

He will rack up another one this Tuesday when he becomes the first North Korean leader to meet with a sitting U.S. president. It will be the most important day to date of his expectation-defying reign.

This is an epoch-making moment," said Ken Gause, an expert on North Korea's leadership at CNA, a research group based in Virginia. "Even if this is just a meet-and-greet, it's going to be a huge event simply because the president of the United States and the head of North Korea actually sat at the same table."

Each leader has a penchant for making bold decisions and a love of the limelight. Yet both want this meeting to be more than just a photo op.

President Donald Trump, it offers an opportunity to prove his self-described masterful negotiating skills and to score a diplomatic victory after a year of "maximum pressure" on North Korea.

As for Kim, his objectives are clear — and primarily related to the American president.

"Kim Jong Un wants to make North Korea great again," said Kim Il-guk, who raised money for the regime before escaping from the North in 2014. "He wants to get rid of the international sanctions so North Korea can make more money and become a great country."

When Kim Jong Un succeeded his father more than six years ago, he inherited a totalitarian state known mainly for its brutal repression, widespread malnutrition and bellicose propaganda department.

Kim, then just 27, had no leadership qualifications other than being born into the cult established by his grandfather after World War II with the backing of China and the Soviet Union. Many analysts in Washington and Seoul thought North Korea's days were numbered.

But Kim has not just survived — he has thrived. He has presided over astonishing advances in nuclear and missile technology and had potential rivals for power killed, including his uncle and his half brother. And this year, he has embarked on a charm offensive that has global leaders — from China, South Korea, Japan, Syria and Russia — seeking to meet him.

But Tuesday brings the jockey for a meeting with the head of the world's No. 1 superpower that will legitimize Kim as a leader — an equal, even — in a way that

N. Korean public is unaware of summit

Associated Press

PYONGYANG, North Korea

— With all the international attention focused on Singapore and the historic summit between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, Pyongyang must be buzzing with excitement, right?

Well, it might be, if anyone knew what was going on.

Instead, it's like the center of the storm.

With few sources of infor-

mation other than the state-run media, gossip and word of mouth, most North Koreans are still largely in the dark about the momentous — and potentially life-changing — events that are about to take place outside of their isolated nation.

The official media has reported that the two leaders plan to meet, but has offered few specifics, including where and when. There was no official word that Kim had left the country Sunday.

ated both his predecessors. "His unprecedented meeting with the U.S. president will make Kim Jong Un feel very proud, having achieved something his father and grandfather didn't," said Jo Seong-ha, who escaped from North Korea and now writes about the country for South Korea's Dong-A Ilbo newspaper.

And although "maximum pressure" may have helped bring Kim to the negotiating table, the other reality is that he is coming to the summit from a position of relative strength, said Kenneth Dekleva, a former State Department diplomat and psychiatrist who has profiled leaders including Slobodan Milosevic and Vladimir Putin, as well as the two most recent North Korean leaders.

"It is a strong, confident and very well-prepared — including the technical details of denuclearization — for the upcoming summit. He has, in effect, staked his reputation on having a successful summit," Dekleva said.

It would be "folly" to look at Kim's relative youth and inexperience and underestimate him, he said, noting that Trump himself once called Kim a "smart cookie."

The North Korean leader is following the plan he laid out early in his tenure.

In 2013, he announced a "dual-track" policy to advance both the nuclear program and the economy, a shift from the "military first" approach of his father.

To prove his military chops, he first focused on the nuclear program, pouring his country's meager resources into building increasingly long-range missiles and what is widely acknowledged to be a hydrogen bomb.

After a year of alarming tests, Kim announced in November that his weapons program was complete. That was the signal he was ready to turn to the economy.

And so he did.

Starting on New Year's Day with an olive branch to South Korea,

Kim has embarked on a strategy designed to portray him as the responsible leader of a nuclear-armed state — just like the leaders of the U.S., China and Russia.

The goal is to boost the economy by getting rid of the international sanctions imposed as punishment for last year's provocations, or at least getting Beijing to stop implementing them. About 90 percent of North Korea's trade goes to or through China.

"This is his top priority," Kim Seok-hyang, professor of North Korean studies at Ewha Womans University in Seoul, said of Kim's focus on the economy. "In 2012, Kim Jong Un promised his people that they would never be hungry again. But he has not been so successful at that so far."

Malnutrition remains chronic, with the World Food Program estimating that 40 percent of the population is undernourished. But Kim's pledge to end hunger is not about caring for his people. In the tradition of his dynasty, he has shown little regard for North Koreans' well-being, channeling money into the nuclear weapons program rather than providing medicine for hospitals, books for schools or electricity for homes.

For Kim, this appears to be an existential issue. He is now ready to take care of his people solely because he wants to take care of himself. Like his father and grandfather before him, he wants to die a natural death in office.



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, left, meets with Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Lung on Sunday at the Istana, or presidential palace, in Singapore.

His father, Kim Jong Il, was 53 when he took control of North Korea, so all he really had to do was to hold on for 20 or 30 years (he lasted 17). He didn't need to change anything, said Andrei Lankov, a Russian historian who studied at Kim Il Sung University in Pyongyang and periodically visits North Korea.

But Kim Jong Un was 27 when he was bequeathed the country. No 34, he could have as many as 50 years in power ahead of him. Kim Il Sung lived to 82.

"He can't afford to do nothing," said Lankov. "For that reason, he is trying to revivify the economy. He wants to keep people's stomachs full of food and their hearts full of fear."

While much of the North Korean economy remains stuck in the Soviet era, theoretically shaped by communist central planning, there have been notable improvements thanks to the emergence, and tolerance, of private-sector market activity.

Surveys show that the vast majority of citizens now earn a living through their own business projects, whether it be offering perms from their front rooms or smuggling coal or movies across the border with China.

The regime has allowed this burgeoning market activity, apparently recognizing that it helps head off resentment over the state's inability to provide. It has had the added benefit of making North Koreans feel that their living standards are improving.

Kim Jong Un has endeavored to show that North Korea is becoming a modern country through showcase projects concentrated in the capital, including high-rise apartment towers, amusement parks and sushi restaurants.

But that doesn't mean he's about to embark on Chinese- or Vietnamese-style reforms that could loosen his grip on the regime. Instead, he wants "reforms without openness," Lankov said.

"He wants to reduce the gap with North Korea's neighbors so that people will give him a chance to stay in power," he said. "Chances are not high that he will die a natural death at age 75, but he needs to try. For a young person, it makes sense to take this risk."

Gause, of CNA, also thinks that Kim is playing a long game. While Kim Jong Il tended to think tactically and to maneuver for short-term gains, his son has to think in longer strategic moves.

"He is a young leader who has no inherent legitimacy," Gause said. Kim Jong Un's grandfather was the leader of the North Korean revolution, and his father spent 20 years building a myth-and-patronage network. Kim Jong Un had little of that.

"If he can tell North Koreans that he brought the American president to the negotiating table, his legitimacy is going to go off the charts," Gause said.




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Drill reflects SOCEUR's growing mission in Europe

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — American commandos in Europe concluded one of their largest combat drills since the end of the Cold War on Friday, quietly bringing firepower to the Baltics as an example of the expanding U.S. special operations mission on the Continent.

Special Operations Command Europe is anticipating more assets as part of efforts to counter a newly aggressive Russia, SOCEUR chief Gen. Mark Schwartz said in an interview at his Stuttgart, Germany, office Thursday.

"I believe with the new guidance coming to us strategically that we are going to see an increase in capability out here," Schwartz said.

With Schwartz set to relinquish command this week, any influx in manpower will be overseen by the incoming SOCEUR leader, Air Force Brig. Gen. Kirk W. Smith. Schwartz is set to become deputy commander for the Joint Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg, N.C.

On Schwartz's wish list are more troops to help build up allied special operations units, additional joint fire capabilities and more Russia experts on the command staff. "I have some very smart Russia analysts within my team here, but certainly I don't have the number I would like," he said. Also in the works is a plan to replace the command's antiquated Patch Barracks headquarters building with a modern command center on post that's fit for its expanded activity.

SOCEUR's growing mission in Europe was reflected in the just-completed Trojan Footprint exercise, which took place on the ground, in the air and in the Baltic



Courtesy photo

U.S. and Danish maritime special operations forces board a ship in the Baltic Sea during exercise Trojan Footprint 18 on June 4.

Sea over a two-week span. The war games involved the rapid deployment of special operators into the Baltics and Poland for a crisis-response mission. U.S. warplanes also took part, including F-16s and a B-1 bomber that conducted its first-ever live drop in Estonia.

The main aim was to deploy without attracting attention and to set up command structures capable of leading allies

in the early stages of a crisis. Unlike conventional military drills that involve distinguished visitor days and heavy media coverage, the SOCEUR exercise was designed to test the ability of commandos to operate under the radar.

"With what we've monitored in special media and intelligence, we've done a pretty good job of getting in (quietly)," Schwartz said.

About 2,000 special operations forces and armed forces from 13 countries joined the U.S.-led exercise, which is conducted every two years.

"It was a tenfold increase from 2016. We wanted to make this more rigorous and complex," Schwartz said. "We were able to demonstrate a lot of capabilities that we have been working on the past couple of years."

For special operations forces in Europe, the mission has returned to its roots as the military shifts its focus from counterterrorism threats to great power competition that puts countering Russia at the top of the agenda.

That means commandos must relearn some skills that have "atrophied," such as building up paramilitary forces in contested areas and communicating without being detected by a high-tech foe, Schwartz said.

The efforts at SOCEUR fit into a broader U.S. European Command push to transform. EUCOM Gen. Curtis Scaparrotti has sought to pivot the headquarters from a peacetime footing to one that can carry out command and control in a high-end fight.

"At EUCOM and the majority of allies and partners in Europe, they certainly look to this headquarters — and I know Gen. Scaparrotti does — to serve as the overall (special operations) operational headquarters in the event of a major contingency in Europe," Schwartz said.

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Schwartz

IG: Air Force cuts F-15C upgrades, plans to retire fighter

By JAMES BOLINGER
Stars and Stripes

The Air Force canceled expensive upgrades to 196 F-15C fighters last year as it hammered out a plan to retire the jets, according to a recently declassified report.

The fighters were supposed to get new electronic warfare equipment known as the Eagle Passive/Active Warning and Survivability

System, said the Department of Defense Inspector General report declassified on May 21.

The Air Force had planned to spend \$3.4 billion installing the gear on all F-15Cs and on 217 F-15Es, giving them "electronic warfare capabilities to detect and identify air and ground threats, employ countermeasures and jam enemy radar signals," the report said.

However, in February 2017, the service ordered a 47 percent cut in the number of jets getting the new equipment, which replaces a dated 1970s electronic warfare package and is designed to increase the F-15Cs' survivability in a contested environment.

The IG report outlined a timeline for retiring the jets, but many details were redacted.

Before that happens, Air Force

officials must brief Congress on options to replace F-15C Air Superiority Mission capabilities, validate whether upgraded F-16s are a viable replacement and identify transition plans for locations that support F-15C aircraft, personnel, operations or maintenance activities, the report said.

Officials from the service told lawmakers in March 2017 that they would consider retiring the

aircraft during budget planning for the 2019 fiscal year.

If Congress doesn't approve the retirement, the Air Force will restore funds to install the electronic warfare gear on F-15Cs based on mission requirements, an Air Force official said in the report.

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US family headed to graduation in South Korea involved in fatal crash

By KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — An American family headed to a high school graduation ceremony on Yongsan Garrison in Seoul, South Korea, was struck by tragedy on Saturday when their car was involved in a fatal collision with a motorcycle.

The crash, which occurred outside Gate 13, killed two people — one American and the South Korean motorcycle driver — and injured another American, garrison spokesman Wes Hayes told Stars and Stripes. Hayes declined to identify the casualties

and said the cause of the crash remained under investigation.

"Our hearts and prayers go out to all the victims of this tragic accident today," Hayes said. Many members of the community gathered at a chapel on post after the graduation ceremony to console each other and grieve.

A person at the chapel said the fatality was an American girl who was with her family on the way to watch her brother graduate from Seoul American High School. Her father, a civilian, was reportedly in critical condition.

The gate, which is the main entrance for visitors to enter the sprawling military base in Seoul, was closed for most of the morn-

ing while military police investigated the crash site. It reopened in the afternoon.

The crash left both vehicles in flames. Hayes said the garrison fire department worked with local Yongsan firefighters to extinguish the fire, and the casualties were transported to hospitals.

Officials with the Department of Defense Education Activity Pacific did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment.

The graduation ceremony was held in the Collier Field House, which is near the gate where the crash occurred.

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Kim Gamel/Stars and Stripes

Military police investigate the site of a fatal car crash outside Gate 13 at Yongsan Garrison in Seoul, South Korea, on Saturday.

EUROPE

ARMORED COMPETITION



PHOTOS BY MARTIN EGNASH/Stars and Stripes

The U.S. tank team fires at targets Friday from its M1A2 Abrams tanks during the Strong Europe Tank Challenge in Grafenwoehr, Germany.

Germany tops NATO allies in tank challenge

BY MARTIN EGNASH
Stars and Stripes

See a video about the Strong Europe Tank Challenge  stripes.com/go/tanks

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany — After a week of blowing up targets and performing extreme challenges in the Bavarian heat, Germany took the trophy for the top tank platoon at this year's Strong Europe Tank Challenge.

This is the third year of the challenge, and it's the second time the German team defeated the hardened tank platoons of the U.S., France, Ukraine, Poland, Sweden, Austria and the United Kingdom.

The eight NATO allies and partner nations gathered in Ger-

many to test their tank crews' skills against each other, to build camaraderie and to share tactics and techniques. Events ranged from precision shooting and range determination to a mock armor battle and a combat pistol shoot.

"A lot of the challenges are very hard, but one of the toughest is probably the combat pistol shoot," said Sgt. Maj. Douglas Merritt, the 7th Army Training Command operations sergeant major, a tank crewman himself. "The soldiers

have to run, dismount, shoot and get on top of their vehicle and shoot from that."

The U.S. tank team — soldiers with the Army's 1st Infantry Division's 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team — did not place in the top three overall but won the tanker shootout. In that event, tanks take long-range, precision shots at targets from several hundred yards away as soldiers from a dozen or more countries cheer them on.

The German team won two years ago, but their top-place victory last week was not a foregone conclusion. Sweden almost pulled ahead of Germany, but the German team racked up points for best overall performance and scored highest in the last day's "Tanker Olympics," in which tank crews sprint around a track with heavy tank parts and gear.

It was Sweden's first year competing in the challenge, and the team was proud to come in second.

"It's the first year for them, so they don't have any experience, but they (did) very well," said Capt. Christian Wester, the Swedish team's tank commander. "It's a great confidence boost.

"This way, we know we train our crews in a good way. "Of course, we have a feeling that we are training them good, but we don't know, since we haven't tested them against other countries this way before. It feels good to know that we're doing the right thing," said Wester.

The tanker teams stayed at the same on-base barracks, giving them time to get to know each



The German tank team runs with tank recovery parts Thursday as part of the tanker Olympics portion of the tank challenge.



Ukrainian tankers fix their T-84 tank Friday after a mock improvised explosive device attack.



A U.S. soldier walks toward a Ukrainian T-84 tank through a cloud of smoke Friday during the tank challenge.

other off the shooting range.

"It's been kind of amazing these past few days," said Swedish tank mechanic Lance Cpl. Daniel Roos. "Everyone has got-

ten along so well and had such a good time together, during and after the competition."

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MILITARY

USAF parental leave policy adds flexibility

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

The Air Force has changed its parental leave policy to give airmen and their families more options for time off after the birth or adoption of a child.

Until now, the Air Force authorized 12 consecutive weeks of maternity convalescent leave to those who gave birth. In addition, 10 days of similar "nonchargeable" leave were given to an airman whose spouse gave birth.

The new structure, announced Friday by the service, allows parents to coordinate leave time between primary and secondary caregivers in a way that is most beneficial to their living circumstances.

The new policy applies to birth mothers, fathers, same-sex couples and adoptive and surrogate parents, the Air Force said.

It outlines three forms of leave for qualifying births or adoptions: maternity convalescent leave, primary caregiver leave and secondary caregiver leave.

Effective immediately, maternity convalescent leave and primary caregiver leave

are each six weeks long. Secondary caregiver leave is three weeks. Every birth mother will have convalescent leave, the Air Force said.

Caregiver leave is given in addition to the convalescent leave.

Covered servicemembers having a child by birth, adoption or surrogacy will determine which parents are the primary and secondary caregiver, the Air Force said.

Designations for caregiver status must follow Department of Defense guidance, and each parent can hold only one caregiver status per birth event or adoption, the Air Force said.

For example, a secondary caregiver cannot transfer leave to the primary caregiver. An active-duty male with a civilian spouse or partner can be designated as a primary caregiver. However, airmen will not be allowed to be designated both as the primary and secondary caregiver.

The allotted time off for each of the three types of leave must be taken all at once and cannot be split up. Primary and secondary caregiver leave can be taken any time within the first year after a child's birth or



Ryan Brooks/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

Senior Airman David Ojeda meets his infant child after returning to Aviano Air Base, Italy, in November 2017 from a deployment in Afghanistan. The Air Force has announced a new policy expanding the options for parental leave.

adoption, the Air Force said.

"We now have not only the most generous parental leave policy in the Department of Defense, we have the most generous parental leave policy in the federal government," Keith Wright, chief master sergeant of the Air Force, wrote in a Facebook post Friday.

The new policy will allow airmen and their families "the maximum time possible in the most flexible application possible," Wright wrote.

The new policy, authorized by the 2017 National Defense Authorization Act, is effective immediately and retroactive to Dec.

23, 2016, the Air Force said.

"If a caregiver had a qualifying event during the retroactive period, Dec. 23, 2016, to March 22, 2018, they have 18 months from the qualifying event to take the caregiver leave," the Air Force said. "For births or adoptions on or after March 23, 2018, members will have 12 months after the event to take their designated leave."

An Air Force fact sheet on the leave policy is available online.

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4 Pendleton Marines facing criminal charges; 2 others guilty

By CARL PRINE

The San Diego Union-Tribune

Four servicemen in Camp Pendleton's 1st Marine Logistics Group are facing serious criminal charges and another pair recently pleaded guilty at court-martial.

The charges include rape, kidnapping, firearms violations, drug use and domestic abuse.

The most senior Marine awaiting court-martial is Gunnery Sgt. Shawn C. Moulton, according to charge sheets released under the federal Freedom of Information Act.

A senior noncommissioned officer in Combat Logistics Battalion 7 at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., Moulton engaged in a forbidden relationship with a junior Marine for more than a

year before it ended in September, prosecutors allege.

When he was ordered by his captain to stop the "unduly familiar relationship," Moulton allegedly kept texting the Marine, according to the charge sheets.

The trial of Moulton, an 18-year veteran of the Corps, is slated to begin on Aug. 20.

Lance Cpl. Calixto Gonzalez Jr. pleaded guilty on May 31 after being charged with violating nine specifications of military law, including rape and burglary.

Assigned to Headquarters Regiment at Camp Pendleton's 1st Marine Logistics Group, the Texan was charged with sexually assaulting two Marines on Sept. 8 and another on Nov. 10.

At least one of the women was unconscious, according to his charge sheet.

Gonzalez pleaded guilty to three specifications of sexual assault and was sentenced to four years in prison, a dishonorable discharge and reduction in rank to private.

Twice found guilty of previous crimes by his command and administratively punished, Pvt. Jordan D. Anderson, of Texas, is confined while awaiting an Aug. 6 court-martial.

The finance technician in Service Company, Headquarters Regiment, is accused of 24 specifications of violating military law, including soliciting prostitution, firearms crimes, stealing military property, obstructing justice and marijuana abuse.

Cpl. Michael J. Williamson, an engineer equipment operator in 1st Transportation Support Battalion, is accused of beating his

ex-girlfriend, a Marine sergeant at Camp Pendleton, on Dec. 30.

Williamson, who is in pretrial confinement pending a court-martial scheduled to begin Monday, allegedly dragged her to the floor of her bed, pushed her against a wall, covered her mouth and nose and choked her with his hand, according to this charge sheet.

Cpl. Richard B. Sawyer, of 7th Engineer Support Battalion on Camp Pendleton, pleaded guilty on May 2 to possessing drug paraphernalia and cocaine. No longer in confinement, the South Carolina man was reduced to the rank of private and will receive a bad conduct discharge from the Corps.

A sailor assigned to 1st Dental Battalion at 1st Marine Logistics Group also faces charges.

Hospitalman Henry L. McGill

is in pretrial confinement pending a court-martial scheduled to begin July 30.

McGill's accused of conspiring with a Marine friend to kidnap McGill's civilian adult girlfriend near Vista, Calif., and take her to Mexico, according to his charge sheet. He allegedly tried to spirit her away on both Sept. 5 and Oct. 20 in Escondido, Calif.

Ordered to stay away from the woman and her Escondido residence, McGill repeatedly disobeyed his commander and pointed an unloaded firearm at her, squeezed her arms, pushed her head and choked her neck, authorities allege.

While investigators were probing the alleged abuse, McGill told an unnamed person to avoid helping them, authorities say.

Older: Marines will maintain physical standards even while seeking more experienced recruits

FROM FRONT PAGE

physical challenges of joining a branch that prides itself on being the "tip of the spear," the first to go into battle and knock it down. It's part of the Marine Corps' modernizing efforts after 16 years of largely low-tech counterinsurgency fights.

"It's going to be a Marine Corps that's a little bit older, a little more experienced, because as much as we love our young Marines ... we need a little bit older because it takes longer to learn these skills," Gen. Robert Neller told defense leaders at a San Diego conference. "And so we're an organization looking at the whole way we do busi-

ness, and it's going to change our culture."

Marine Corps officials are quick to emphasize the core recruiting mission will remain the same for the branch that boasts having the toughest warriors in the U.S. military.

Getting more Marines to re-enlist could inadvertently ease pressure on recruiters. Less than 20 percent of the U.S. population is qualified physically, mentally and morally to serve, according to military leaders. A greater number of older Marines could also help lessen behavior problems like excessive drinking that can be more prevalent among junior Marines.

"By older Marines, we're not

talking guys with walkers but rather second- and third-tour enlisted Marines," said Gary Solis, a military expert at Georgetown University who served 26 years in the Marine Corps. "They may be only a few years older than the 18- and 19-year-old Marines, but those three or four years difference could make a hell of a difference as far as maturity when it comes to their outlook and unit cohesion."

The commandant said it also ensures the military gets a return on the money and time it spends training troops in cyberoperations, something that could take three or more years.

The 2018 defense budget ear-

marked money for the Marine Corps to add 1,000 Marines, many who will work in cyber and electronic warfare.

Tampering with networks that control the operations of air defense, for example, could be as lethal as — or more lethal than — firepower in the future. Extremists have also been able to use mobile technology and social media to recruit members and raise money to become a real threat.

The Marine Corps is opening jobs in October in its new cyberspace occupational field. After the announcement of the field, Neller tweeted: "Trigger fingers turn to Twitter fingers? Not exactly, but this is the next step in profession-

alizing our cyber force, which will be critical to our success, now and in the future."

The Marine Corps floated the idea of allowing people with cyber skills to bypass boot camp, but Neller opposed that, saying a Marine should be a Marine. Any applicant over the age of 28 will still be evaluated to ensure they exhibit the physical stamina to undergo the rigors of recruit training.

Though it will not be easy to compete against six-digit salaries in the private sector, the military plans to tout how its tech people are sent out in the field, offering the chance for high-adrenaline experiences beyond sitting in an office at a computer.

MILITARY

Mattis strives to reassure in a chaotic time

DOD chief works to soothe allies despite Trump's combative tone

By JONATHAN TAMARI
Philly.com

BRUSSELS, Belgium — As President Donald Trump feuded with some of America's closest allies last week and talked about inviting one of their great rivals, Russia, back into an exclusive economic club, Jim Mattis was here, sounding a very different note.

Standing at a lectern inside NATO's gleaming new headquarters — marked by reminders of the transatlantic alliance's powerful history — Trump's defense secretary declared that “the American people remain committed to this alliance, and we look forward to working together.”

It was yet another example of Mattis, a former Marine general, reassuring America's closest friends that their bonds remain strong, a familiar, soothing contrast to the combative tone coming from the White House.

It's a role that has made Mattis a critical American voice on the world stage. “He is, without question, within Europe, and really, I would argue, around the world, the most respected person in President Trump's Cabinet,” said Derek Chollet, a former assistant secretary of defense, who managed Europe and NATO policy under two of Mattis' Obama-era predecessors.

There are looming questions, though, over how far Mattis' words can go when contrasted with the president's increasingly belligerent approach to allies such as Canada, the United Kingdom, France and Germany.

“Last year, it was more rhetoric and bluster (from Trump), but now we're seeing the rhetoric and the bluster turning into real action,” said Julie Smith, a former principal director for European and NATO policy in the Obama-era Department of Defense. “Now Mattis has a harder job.”

Three days last week provided a glimpse of how he has tried to balance his roles tending to allies while also serving a go-it-alone president.

‘A disunifying force’

International strains were growing even as Mattis crossed the Atlantic for a gathering of NATO's defense ministers.

The previous week, Trump had imposed tariffs hitting Canada

and American allies in Europe — citing national security reasons as he targeted some of the U.S.'s oldest friends. Europe hit back by imposing levies on American products including bourbon, peanut butter and Harley-Davidsons.

The trade fight was only the latest example of months of friction. Frustration in Europe has grown enough that some world leaders, most notably German Chancellor Angela Merkel, have questioned if the old order will still hold.

“The NATO alliance doesn't work if the U.S. isn't actively leading it,” said Chollet, a visiting fellow at Penn's Perry World House and executive vice president at the German Marshall Fund of the United States.

American leadership after World War II brought together a fractured Europe and continued under presidents of both parties. But now, Chollet said, “the United States is being seen as a disunifying force within Europe.”

Mattis is a former NATO commander who sees great value in international cooperation, and he stressed the importance of alliances as he rumbled east in a Boeing E-4B nicknamed “the Doomsday Plane.”

Decades old, the aircraft has boxy consoles and analog instruments — but it's also capable of surviving an electromagnetic pulse from a nuclear strike and serving as a flying command center.

Within the brawn were delicate touches. Air Force crewmembers had set out cucumber-infused water and served blueberry crepes for breakfast.

Speaking to reporters inside his quarters, stocked with old video consoles and a spartan bunk bed, Mattis downplayed the idea that Trump's actions could disrupt key alliances. One or two disagreements, he said, aren't enough to shake shared democratic values and decades of collaboration on security.

“It's almost like you have an orchestra playing, but you got cymbals clanging. We'll address the cymbals, no problem — but that does not refute the fact that the violins are in harmony,” said Mattis.

Despite — or perhaps because of — the weight of his job, Mattis, 67, gave the impression that he rarely slept. The room had a bunk bed, but all Mattis talked about was the real work he had to do



U.S. Secretary for Defense Jim Mattis, center, and NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, left front, prepare at NATO headquarters in Brussels on Friday to address a roundtable meeting of NATO ministers and partners on combating Islamic State.

once he was done with the media, despite the short turnaround from his 19-hour flight from Singapore less than three days earlier.

The former general earned a reputation as a fearsome military leader, but also a philosophical one who reads voraciously. He's sometimes called a “warrior monk,” though Trump prefers “Mad Dog.”

Mattis acknowledged the anxiety he was likely to face in Europe.

“The reason I'm traveling there is to listen, to take notes, to work these things forward,” he said.

Trump, tariffs, Twitter

The friction comes from more than just tariffs.

Trump, who once declared that he was elected to represent Pittsburgh, not Paris, also has pulled the U.S. out of pacts with allies on climate change and Iran's nuclear program.

Just as Mattis made the rounds at NATO, the president dove into a public spat — via Twitter — with French President Emmanuel Macron and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

“In Europe, there's extremely high levels of anti-Trump and anti-Americanism in general,” said Mitchell Orenstein, a professor of Russian and East European studies at Penn.

He pointed to polls last year from the Pew Research Center that found that even before the recent clashes, most Europeans — approaching 90 percent in France and Germany — lacked confidence in Trump's leadership on the world stage.

Signs of very different eras flank the walkway into NATO's new headquarters.

On one side is a slab of the Berlin Wall. On the other, twisted metal from the North Tower of the World Trade Center. One recalls the decades when transatlantic allies stood against communism. The other marks a moment when Europe came to America's aid.

The meeting of defense ministers Thursday and Friday was the

inaugural event at the new site, with its sleek interior of glass, cool grays and white. Their talks took place far from public view in an area blocked off by security.

When officials met with reporters, though, the tariff issue loomed. European journalists repeatedly pressed NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg about the trade clash.

Trump has questioned the cost of America's deep international involvement, in both money and lives. While previous presidents had urged NATO members to spend more on defense, Trump has turned up the pressure.

Mattis faithfully has carried the president's message on spending, pushing his foreign counterparts to invest more in defense, while also promoting the importance of unity.

Allies may find Mattis' words soothing, said Penn's Orenstein, but his reassurances are undercut by Trump's belligerent tweets and frequent policy swings. Military alliances, he said, depend on predictability and reliability.

“The weird thing about the Trump administration is that he has his own personal foreign policy that is different from the policy of his administration,” Orenstein said.

Harmony and disruption

The U.S. and Europe have been through difficult periods before.

Stoltenberg, the NATO chief, pointed to the split over the Iraq War as the most recent example whenever he was asked about Trump's tariffs.

“It's nothing new that there are differences between NATO allies,” he said. “And what we have seen again and again is that we have been able to unite around NATO's core task, to protect and defend each other despite those differences.”

And when it comes to NATO, Trump's actions line up with what previous presidents did, Chollet said. The U.S. is beefing up European defenses and will host a new NATO headquarters in Norfolk,

Va., monitoring Atlantic waters where Russia has tried intimidation tactics — even as Trump continues to shower attention on the rival country.

Most of Mattis' work here was done in private meetings with fellow defense ministers. Amid the chilly Trump-Merkel relationship, Mattis sat with Germany's defense minister — though there were few details provided about their discussion.

When Mattis did emerge for a news conference, an awkward scene played out: A TV crew had an audio problem, leaving the defense secretary unhappily fidgeting.

For days, Department of Defense aides had warned reporters to arrive at events 20 minutes ahead of schedule, knowing Mattis' habit of coming early and leaving fast. If the sound didn't get fixed quickly, an aide said, the general would have to leave.

“I can't tell you how much that would break my heart,” Mattis said. “I need to go off and actually work for a living.”

The sound problem solved, Mattis touted a 2017 surge in NATO members' defense spending — the largest increase in 25 years, he said — and steps the alliance was taking to confront terrorism and an aggressive Russia.

But back in the U.S., Trump was about to leave for his own meeting with world leaders, including Macron, Merkel and Theresa May, prime minister of the United Kingdom. As he did, the president called for Russia to be invited back into their club of the globe's largest economies — defying the allies and his own generals, who have stressed efforts to deter Moscow, not reward it.

It was another disruptive burst that again clouded the pledges of harmony in Brussels.

And it came as his defense secretary was back aboard the plane, this time heading to London, to sit with leaders from another ally grappling with America's confounding new posture.

NATION

Portland struggles to keep the peace at dueling rallies



MARK GRAVES, THE (PORTLAND) OREGONIAN/AP

Photographers capture dueling demonstrations between anti-fascists, known as antifa, and a right-wing group called Patriot Prayer in downtown Portland, Ore., on June 3.

By GILLIAN FLACCUS
Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — Viral videos of bloody skirmishes between right-wing activists and self-described anti-fascists have drawn national attention to Portland — a city of storied political activism that has struggled to keep the peace at dueling rallies illustrating a microcosm of the nation's political division.

Tensions erupted most recently this month when members of the so-called "antifa" movement showed up at a march organized by a right-wing group called Patriot Prayer.

As police tried to keep order, fist fights broke out in a string of downtown parks fringed with aspen trees and dotted with plaques honoring Portland's founders and fallen World War II soldiers.

Videos from the conflict on social media show one man being knocked to the ground and kicked repeatedly as he covers his head with his hands. In another, a man lying on the ground is dragged away from a group of attackers, his face bloodied. In a third, two men — including one wearing homemade body armor — take swings at a third man who is backed against a wall with his arms raised.

Police made four arrests June 3 in and around the parks, which have become gathering places for dissent in this liberal city already known for near-weekly protests.

And in this city that patiently waits out traffic jams caused by protests, residents wondered how free speech had turned so violent.

Protesters here traditionally have demonstrated together for their causes. But over the past year, a different type of political activism has shattened the

unanimity normally seen among demonstrators, said longtime Portland resident Jon Baldvieso.

"It obscures better forms of political speech," he said. "It feels different when protests are more one-sided and not skirmishes between ideological factions. ... I've got very low patience for physical confrontation."

What is happening could be an expression of a deep sensitivity to a dark chapter of the city's

history that's bubbling up as the rest of the country, too, becomes more politically polarized.

In the 1920s, the Ku Klux Klan had a strong presence in the city, and by the 1980s, Portland was a hot spot for white supremacist groups, earning it the nickname "Skinhead City."

One of the most infamous attacks in Portland's racial history occurred in November 1988, when an Ethiopian immigrant was beaten to death by three white supremacists from the California-based White Aryan Resistance in front of his apartment.

The city was also the home base for Volksfront, a now-defunct white separatist organization founded in 1994, according to the Southern Poverty Law Center, which tracks hate groups.

While Patriot Prayer isn't considered a white supremacist or hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center, its members march alongside right-wing groups promoting free speech rights by rejecting political correctness, said Ryan Lenz, an SPLC spokesman.

Those marches have drawn a forceful reaction from a left-wing movement known as the antifa

that is dedicated to rooting out neo-Nazis and white supremacists, he said.

The 10-year-old group Rose City Antifa is one of the most organized of these loosely affiliated groups in the nation and also one of the oldest. Individual antifa members remain anonymous, but the group's public Facebook page issued a call for members to show up June 3 to confront the "rising tide of fascism and the forces of structural and insurgent white supremacy" in Portland.

"If you think about it, Portland is home to this extreme leftist perspective ... but at the same time it is home to very hard-core racist groups going back to the skinhead group," Lenz said.

Patriot Prayer has also held marches and rallies in many other cities around the U.S. West that have drawn violent reactions. But the Portland events have taken on outsized significance because of the stabbing deaths a year ago of two men who came to the defense of two young black women — one in a hijab — who were being harassed on a light-rail train by a Patriot Prayer sympathizer.

Ind. GOP reaffirms marriage platform

Associated Press

EVANSVILLE, Ind. — Indiana Republican Party activists overwhelmingly voted Saturday to reaffirm language first inserted in their platform when Vice President Mike Pence was governor that defines marriage as a union "between a man and a woman."

The (Northwest Indiana) Times reported that delegates to the party's biennial state convention chose the existing plank in its party platform over one floated by Gov. Eric Holcomb's hand-picked party chairman that was intended to be more inclusive of same-sex couples.

Chairman Kyle Hupfer's proposal would have recognized a variety of families, including "all loving adults" rearing children.

The vote was a victory for Pence-era social conservatives who inserted the affirmation of what they call a "traditional family" into the platform in 2014, when he was governor.

Daniel Elliott, the Morgan County GOP chairman and leader of the Republican Victory Committee that pushed the issue, said endorsing the idea of marriage between a man and woman was key to the philosophy of "Hoosier Republicans."

"This language ... recognizes the reality on the ground that most families are headed by married couples," Elliott said.

But Porter County Republican Chairman Michael Simpson advocated for the alternative, which read, "We support traditional families with a mother and father, blended families, grandparents, guardians, single parents and all loving adults who successfully raise and nurture children to reach their full potential every day."

In a floor speech, Simpson argued that a broader definition of family "is the best platform for our party and the best way for us to grow."

After the vote, Simpson said although he accepts the outcome, he and others will "keep encouraging all people" to join the party.

Indiana's Stonewall Democrats, a group within the party that advocates for the LGBTQ community, said the platform decision was a "throwback" to previous battles in Indiana over a law that gay rights organizations said allowed religious groups to discriminate against the LGBTQ community. The group noted that the U.S. Supreme Court made same-sex marriage legal nearly three years ago.

"Indiana Republicans seem determined to live in denial of the basic constitutional rights granted to all Hoosiers," the group said.

Lawsuit: US was negligent in Texas church massacre

By RYAN TARINELLI
Associated Press

DALLAS — A family that lost relatives during a mass shooting at a Texas church says the federal government was negligent by failing to report the gunman's criminal information to a national database, according to a lawsuit filed last week.

The suit, filed in federal court in San Antonio, said that even though gunman Devin Patrick Kelley was criminally convicted while in the Air Force, the military failed to enter the information into a database used to conduct background checks of gun buyers.

The error, according to the lawsuit, allowed Kelley to buy the assault-style rifle he used during the November shooting in Sutherland Springs that killed more than two dozen people. The Holcombe family suffered about a third of those deaths.

"We think this entire tragedy could have been avoided," said the family's attorney, Rob Ammons, in an interview Friday. He said an unborn child was among the Holcombe family members killed.

"The Air Force didn't do its job," he said.



ERIC GAY/AP

Crosses for members of the Holcombe family are part of a makeshift memorial for those who were killed in the Sutherland Springs Baptist Church shooting in Sutherland Springs, Texas.

An Air Force spokeswoman declined comment.

The litigation said the Air Force acted recklessly and carelessly in not reporting Kelley's criminal information to a federal database.

The federal suit was filed on behalf of Joe and Clarice Holcombe. The lawsuit said their son, John Bryan Holcombe, was murdered while walking to the pulpit at the church.

It is difficult to sue the federal government under a principle

called sovereign immunity. The lawsuit filed over the Texas shooting cited the Federal Tort Claims Act, which allows such suits in certain circumstances.

The litigation is one of several lawsuits that have been filed following high-profile mass shootings that have garnered national attention and stirred debate.

Some of the surviving victims of a massacre at an Orlando, Fla., nightclub filed a suit in federal court Thursday, saying authori-

ties and the city did not try to stop the shooter.

Antonio Romanucci, a Chicago attorney, said there has been an uptick in the amount of litigation regarding mass shootings. When people see inaction on gun regulations at the federal level, he said, civil lawsuits can be an option for victims to pursue change and justice.

"I think litigation plays a very important role in these cases," he said.

NATION

Puerto Rican pride, frustration displayed at parade

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The National Puerto Rican Parade in New York turned into its usual boisterous celebration Sunday, but many participants also saw it as an occasion to express their more somber concerns over the devastation caused by Hurricane Maria.

Along the parade route in the heart of Manhattan, people carried signs with tributes like “New York stands with Puerto Rico,” “You will not be forgotten” and “Decolonize Puerto Rico.”

Many also waved Puerto Rican flags and danced as they made their way down Fifth Avenue.

Remembering those still struggling in Puerto Rico “makes today important, but it also makes it bittersweet,” said Nora Ortiz.

Ortiz, 53, of Brooklyn, and other parade-goers voiced frustration over what they said was an under-reporting of the death toll in Puerto Rico and a tepid emergency

‘Maria unmasked that we are a colony. I’m just tired of the way my island has been treated.’

Julio Pabon
Bronx, N.Y., resident

response by the administration of President Donald Trump.

A recent study from Harvard University estimated there were up to 4,600 more deaths than usual in the three months after Hurricane Maria, although some independent experts questioned the methods and the number in that study. The official federal death toll is at 64.

“We’re part of the United States,” Ortiz said. “We are Americans, and I think that I came to represent the fact that no one wants to admit that almost 5,000 lives were lost in Hurricane Maria.”

Julio Pabon led a group of demonstrators who chanted “Respect Puerto Rico”

as it passed Trump Tower. They also waved flags in the direction of the luxury high-rise.

“Maria unmasked that we are a colony,” said Pabon, 66, of the Bronx. “I’m just tired of the way my island has been treated.”

Gov. Andrew Cuomo and U.S. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, both Democrats, were among the dignitaries on hand for the event. Cuomo has been an outspoken proponent of the need to help Puerto Rico after the September storm.

Also on hand was a marching contingent made up of people who are on the U.S. mainland only because they were

displaced from their homes on the island.

This year’s parade comes a year after a controversial one when the parade organization decided to recognize Oscar Lopez Rivera, a former member of a militant group responsible for a series of bombings.

That led some sponsors to withdraw their support and some politicians, like Cuomo, to decline to take part.

Before the parade, Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. had said it needed to take a political tone. He and the group he was marching with planned to be in black T-shirts that reflect the Harvard study’s estimate of the dead.

“It would be a missed opportunity this Sunday ... if we don’t show an act of solidarity, an act of protest, an act of defiance,” he said over the weekend. “To let the world know we still have a president and Congress that still has not done right by 3.5 million Americans.”

Office building at World Trade Center site set to open

By KAREN MATTHEWS
Associated Press

NEW YORK — An 80-story office building opening this week at the World Trade Center will be the third completed skyscraper at the site where the twin towers stood.

Monday’s ribbon-cutting for the 1,079-foot 3 World Trade Center marks a major step in the rebuilding of the site, stalled for years by disputes among government agencies, trade center developer Larry Silverstein, insurers and 9/11 victims’ family members who wanted the entire site to be preserved for eternity as a memorial.

The new, \$2.7 billion building, helmed by Pritzker Prize-winning architect Richard Rogers, has been the fifth-tallest building in New York City since construction topped out in 2016.

That designation seemed elusive in 2009, when the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which owns the trade center site and was battling with Silverstein over costs associated with rebuilding, sought to reduce 3 World Trade to a four-story “stump.”

After arbitration in the dispute between the developer and the property owner, construction started in 2010 but was halted at seven stories due to a lack of financing.

The financial situation improved in 2012, Silverstein said. “It was like somebody came to us and said, ‘The curtain has gone up. You can now access this pool of financing.’”

The port authority’s executive director, Rick Cotton, joined the agency in 2017 and missed out on the fight with Silverstein. Cotton said the opening of 3 World Trade is “really a major transformative step in the ongoing evolution of the World Trade Center from a construction site to an active, living, breathing campus of office buildings and a memorial.”

The World Trade’s 62-foot lobby faces the National Sept. 11 Museum. Wedged between the Santiago Calatrava-designed transportation hub and 4 World Trade Center, also built by Silverstein, the new building consists of an 80-story tower straddling a 17-story “podium.”

Cladding beams down the east and west faces of the tower look like an embel-



MARK LENNING/AP

One World Trade Center towers over its neighbors, including 3 World Trade Center, middle, an 80-story office building in New York.

ishment but are actually structural components that will allow for column-free spaces inside.

“It’s a load-bearing system,” said Carlos Valverde, a Silverstein Properties vice president who has supervised construction of the building.

The skyscraper boasts an annealed glass exterior with 10,000 glass panels that have been cooled slowly to reduce internal stress, meaning the glass shouldn’t break into shards if it is struck. Inside, office space is being readied for anchor tenant GroupM, an advertising firm, with exposed ceilings that suggest a Soho loft.

There are outdoor terraces on the 17th, 60th and 76th floors, including an outdoor deck that will be shared by all the building’s tenants.

A mural of a dancer in a red dress adorns a wall on the otherwise bare 68th floor, which will eventually be covered with street artists’ work.

The new building is the second Silverstein skyscraper to feature graffiti. Street artists were invited to wield their spray cans on the 69th floor of the new building’s neighbor, 4 World Trade, last year. The artwork inspired the streaming service Spotify to sign a lease for the top floors of the building, including the “graffiti in the sky” floor.

Silverstein said 40 percent of 3 World Trade’s office space is leased. GroupM will start moving in July 16, Valverde said. Management consulting firm McKinsey &

Co. has leased space and will move in next year.

Myers Mermel, the chief executive of TenantWise, a real estate advisory firm, said the McKinsey deal will spur other prestigious financial services firms to consider moving to the area. “McKinsey marks a turning point in front office acceptance of the new World Trade Center,” he said.

Silverstein, now 87, thought he had gotten “the brass ring” when he signed a 99-year lease on the trade center in July 2001. Two planes piloted by terrorists destroyed the trade center complex six weeks later.

Silverstein recalled a conversation with his wife, Klara, about whether he should try to rebuild or not. “We can either walk away from this place as many people are advising me to do and as the insurers want me to do, or we can stay and rebuild,” Silverstein recalled saying. “But I said, ‘It’s going to be a tough 10 years,’ because I thought we could do it all in 10 years.”

Seventeen years later, Silverstein has completed 4 World Trade and 3 World Trade. One World Trade, the tallest building on the site, was developed by the port authority.

The still-unfinished 2 World Trade Center, immediately north of the transportation hub, is awaiting an anchor tenant and financing before it can be built beyond a stump.

“We’ve just got to find the occupant of that last tower. Get that done,” Silverstein said.

2nd anniversary of Pulse shooting marked by art, a run and litigation

By MIKE SCHNEIDER
Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Survivors and victims’ relatives are marking the second anniversary of the Pulse nightclub shooting with a remembrance ceremony, a run, art exhibits and litigation.

Ahead of Tuesday’s commemoration of the massacre of 49 people at the gay nightclub in Florida, some survivors and victims’ relatives have sued the Orlando Police Department and the owners of the nightclub.

The federal lawsuit against the police and city of Orlando was filed last Thursday. It claims police officers should have acted more aggressively to stop the shooter. The state lawsuit against Pulse owners Barbara and Rosario Poma was filed Friday, and it says the nightclub had inadequate security.

Both lawsuits were filed by plaintiff attorneys based in Philadelphia and Michigan.

The Pomas said in a statement that they hadn’t seen the lawsuit and that the focus this week should be on healing.

“We ask that everyone keep the focus where it belongs as we prepare for this Remembrance,” Pomas said.

In a statement, the Orlando Police Department said their officers and other law enforcement officers did everything they could to save as many lives as possible.

In the run up to the anniversary, the parents of murdered gay college student Matthew Shepard spoke in Orlando, and a “rainbow run” was held in a park near the nightclub and a play was produced based on the interviews of Pulse survivors and those around the world who responded to the tragedy.

On Tuesday, bells will be rung 49 times at the memorial in downtown Orlando, and a remembrance service will be held at the nightclub, where a planned memorial is in development. Forty-nine ribbons will be hung outside City Hall, an exhibit on the tragedy is being held at the Orange County History Center and a rainbow flag will be hung from the Orange County Administration building.

NATION

Landscapers who rely on foreign help fret over raid

By JOHN SEEWER
Associated Press

TOLEDO, Ohio — Already facing a severe labor shortage, landscapers and other businesses can't keep up with booming demand for backyard patios and fire pits worry that an immigration raid that rounded up more than 100 people last week will make it even tougher to persuade Congress to allow more foreign workers into America for seasonal jobs.

Owners of landscaping companies near Tuesday's sting in the Lake Erie resort city of Sandusky and nearby Castalia, which targeted workers with forged documents in one of the largest actions at a workplace in recent years, said it sent a shiver of apprehension through their industry.

"I believe most of us are doing things the right way, but every company is going to be worried that they're going to be raided," said Joe Drake, who runs JFD Landscapes in Chardon, also in northern Ohio.

Drake, who has been maintaining lawns for nearly 30 years, spent the past week in Chicago meeting with other seasonal employers to try crafting a strategy that would persuade Congress to ease restrictions on H-2-B temporary visas, a type set aside for foreign workers who hold seasonal, nonagricultural jobs.

While many seasonal employees and tourism businesses were shut out of the program this year, landscapers were hit especially hard because they rely on the program more than many other industries to fill jobs they say nobody else wants.

"In that condoning breaking the law in any way, shape, or form, but we need a program that works," Drake said. "How do you think this work is going to get done?"

This year, a federal lottery for the first time determined which employers would get their allotments, initially capped at 66,000 workers until the Department of Homeland Security announced two weeks ago it would allow another 15,000 additional visas.

That still leaves a shortage,

though, after the elimination last year of a "returning worker exemption" that allowed workers to come back to their jobs without counting against the cap.

The number of temporary visas issued each year tends to fluctuate with the economy. And while the limit hasn't changed since the early 1990s, Congress at times has allowed exemptions to exceed it.

Joe Schill, president of Green Impressions in Sheffield near Cleveland, didn't get any of the 18 foreign workers he had been counting on this year, forcing him to turn down jobs, a move that cost his business about \$300,000 in just April and May.

Trying to find replacements has proved futile, he said. Five new hires quit last week, and "what's left out there can't pass a drug test."

"I don't want to hire illegal guys. We've got too much to risk," he said. "But, trust me, I can see why guys would want to go that way. I can totally understand these guys who might think they can beat the system."

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement said that it expects to charge the 114 workers arrested last week at Corso's Flower & Garden Center with identity theft and tax evasion and that the employer also is under investigation.

Corso's released a statement Friday saying it demands proper documentation from its employees and ensures they pay taxes. It also said that if anyone used false identification documents to get a job, the company was not aware.

Landscapers in Ohio were quick to point out that the workers were not among those with H-2-B visas, who undergo background checks and are legally cleared to work.

Critics of the program say too many employers violate the program's spirit by filling jobs that aren't temporary or seasonal in nature, such as landscaping companies and seasonal workers.

"So it is easier and sometimes cheaper to hire H-2-Bs than it is to find available U.S. workers," said Jessica Vaughan, director of Policy Studies for the Center for Immigration Studies, which favors reducing immigration.

man in the side near the Venice Beach boardwalk on May 4, then later that night stabbing another man, inflicting serious wounds and cuts to his face, neck and upper body, police said.

O'Neal, 33, had been arrested May 8 on suspicion of armed robbery after a heist at a 7-Eleven store. He matched the description — red-haired with distinctive tattoos — of the man in the earlier attacks, police said.



JOHN MINCHILLO/AP

Workers are led away to be processed during an immigration sting Tuesday at Corso's Flower and Garden Center in Castalia, Ohio.

But Tamar Jacoby, president of business coalition ImmigrationWorks USA, said employers in immigrant-heavy industries have been "crushed for labor as the economy has recovered."

Unlike other industries, landscapers can rely on H-2-B visas to some extent, but jobs are still hard to fill. "It's hot out there, it's wet, there are mosquitoes, there are brambles," Jacoby said.

Many landscapers are in a Catch-22 because they can't find enough domestic labor, said Amy Novak, a Colorado-based immigration attorney specializing in temporary worker visas.

"They have no option, really, other than to decrease their business contracts or use undocumented workers, and that is not a good choice," she said.

Immigration crackdowns could give Congress the impression that employers are trying to take advantage of the system by hiring unauthorized workers, Novak said — or it could help by showing that employers are not able to find the workers they need.

"Because of immigration, H-2-B has become a political football," said Jerry Schill, a co-owner of Schill Grounds Management in North Ridgeville, not far from Sandusky.

The companies that hire people in the country illegally only add to the negative perception of seasonal workers, he said.

"It makes our battle that much more difficult," Schill said. "When you're faced with adversity, it doesn't give you a license to cheat."

With Bourdain death, voice for immigrant workers lost

By TERRY TANG
Associated Press

Anthony Bourdain's culinary passions went far beyond the cuisine he put on a plate. He also was committed to the immigrant workers who toil in his and other kitchens throughout the restaurant industry.

Bourdain, who died Friday in France in an apparent suicide at age 61, was an outspoken critic of President Donald Trump's immigration policies and a fierce defender of Hispanic workers.

The chef, global traveler and author, whose popularity grew with his CNN series "Parts Unknown," often was the first to tip his hat to his employees from Central America or Mexico. He promoted his Mexican-born sous chef, the late Carlos Laguno Garcia, to run two of his New York restaurants and complained loudly about the U.S.' "ridiculously hypocritical attitudes" toward immigration.

"Some, of course, like to claim that Mexicans are stealing American jobs," Bourdain said in 2014. "But in two decades as a chef and employer, I never had one American kid walk in my door and apply for a dishwashing job, a porter's position or even a job as prep cook."

During the 2016 presiden-

tial campaign season, Bourdain slammed Trump's promises to deport immigrants in the U.S. illegally and to build a wall along the Mexican border.

"If Mr. Trump deports 11 million people or whatever he's talking about right now, every restaurant in America would shut down," Bourdain said in an interview with SiriusXM radio.

Trump has said the wall is needed to keep immigrants and drugs out of the U.S. and his policies are designed to keep the country safe.

Julian Medina, the owner of eight Mexican restaurants in New York, said he and Bourdain crossed paths a few times at industry events.

"The Latino community was very important to him because in the kitchens of New York there are many Latinos," Medina said. "He supported that because he always worked beside a Latino and put Carlos in charge of his kitchen."

Saul Montiel, executive chef at the Mexican restaurant Cafina Roof Top in Manhattan, said Garcia, who died of cancer in 2015, always spoke highly of Bourdain. Montiel, who started in the business washing dishes 15 years ago, said Bourdain was "one of the few chefs that valued the work of the Latinos in the kitchen."

Son of Ryan O'Neal, Farrah Fawcett charged with attempted murder

By GALE HOLLAND
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — The son of actor Ryan O'Neal and the late Farrah Fawcett was charged Friday with attempted murder and assault in what police called a series of violent and unprovoked attacks in Los Angeles.

Of the most serious incidents, Redmond James O'Neal is accused of stabbing a

O'Neal has a history of drug arrests dating to 2005.

In 2008, authorities charged him and his father on suspicion of felony drug possession after Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies conducting a probation search of the actor's Malibu home said they found methamphetamine on Redmond and in his father's bedroom.

Ryan O'Neal, 77, was nominated for an Oscar for the 1970 movie "Love Story,"

starred in "Paper Moon" and "Barry Lyndon" and more recently had a recurring role in the TV series "Bones."

The latest case was investigated by robbery detectives with the Los Angeles Police Department's Pacific Area.

Redmond O'Neal also was charged with battery, making a criminal threat and brandishing a knife. He remains in the custody of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, records show.

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OPINION
Services might be overwhelmed by senators' officer management reforms

By Tom Philpott
Special to Stars and Stripes

Arrmy, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps personnel chiefs jointly testified in January before the Senate armed services subcommittee on personnel on the need to make targeted reforms to the 1980 Defense Officer Personnel Management Act to provide greater flexibility to recruit and retain the officers they need.

DOPMA reforms unveiled Wednesday by the full committee, in its version of the fiscal 2019 defense authorization bill (S 2987), might be viewed by service leaders as having gone beyond what's needed to modernize officer management.

One provision likely viewed as radical would mandate that the services end the practice of defining promotion zones based on officer "year groups" — the date officers were commissioned or gained current rank — to rely instead on competitive categories that group officers by similar specialties, occupations or ratings.

Current law grants the services broad authority to establish competitive categories for officer promotion. Navy has chosen to use 20 but the Marine Corps groups all officers into two. The committee favors Navy's approach.

Another DOPMA reform provision would prohibit the practice of requiring service secretaries to provide consistent promotion timing or promotion opportunity across competitive categories of officers in each service.

Other DOPMA reforms in the bill would not be mandatory. The services could use them if they desire. But even a few of those "will be controversial," said retired Army Col. Michael J. Barron, director of government relations for Military Officers Association of America. One such provision would expand use of "constructive credit" to raise commissioned ranks with more civilian expertise, for example to strengthen cyberwarfare capabilities or take account of private-sector training. It would allow direct commission of civilians up to the rank of colonel or Navy captain.

"That's one of the most controversial topics when I talk to folks about DOPMA on Capitol Hill and in the services," Barron said. "The issue is, 'Why can't we go get someone who's worked for a Google or Facebook, had a successful career, and give them a lateral [entry] promotion' to field grade rank. It would be very targeted if they moved forward on it."

But it still would rub up against service culture, particularly for the Marine Corps or Army where, Barron said, by the time an officer is promoted to major "they are inculcated into service culture in every way, shape and form" versus being a civilian in Silicon Valley on Friday and a major on Monday, Barron said.

"Can it work? I think it can; we did it during World War II in different eras," he said. "Very selectively though. The services would probably say 'We'll want to control that' and not be mandated on how many they must bring in by lateral entry." The House version of the defense authorization bill contains no provisions to reform DOPMA. If the Senate package survives floor debate later this summer and clears the full Senate, a House-Senate conference committee will negotiate differences in the separate defense bills. Barron said he would expect the services to urge House conferees to embrace only

MILITARY UPDATE



In January, Sen. Thom Tillis, R-N.C., said the 1980 Defense Officer Personnel Management Act's one-desired outcomes have grown "increasingly irrelevant for some threats facing today's military."

some "targeted" DOPMA reforms and reject provisions that threaten management practices they want preserved.

At the January hearing on DOPMA reform, Sen. Thom Tillis, R-N.C., subcommittee chairman, said the law was passed in the Cold War to provide "a fully ready officer corps comprised of youthful, vigorous" and mostly males "to defeat the Soviet threat." It "largely serves its intended purpose." DOPMA strengthened an "up-or-out" promotion system. But its one-desired outcomes, Tillis said, have grown "increasingly irrelevant for some threats facing today's military."

He cited three weaknesses reflected in the full committee's report on its bill. One, Tillis said, the system for managing officers "is unable to quickly provide the officers required to respond to unforeseen threats that demand unexpected skill sets." Cyber and information warfare expertise are most often cited.

Two, the system doesn't respond effectively to "rapid changes in the defense budget, resulting in inefficient and systemic surpluses or shortages" of officers.

Three, DOPMA is a one-size-fits-all solution to officer management that does not allow the services "much ability to differentiate" recruiting and retention practices across service branches or to vary them enough by career fields.

DOPMA's authors, Tillis added, "never envisioned the post-Cold War military," which is 43 percent smaller than in 1980 and "constantly engaged" around the globe "in ways never predicted during the Cold War. Repeated overseas combat deployments strain the more traditional warfighting career fields while ... new military domains" — including cyber and space — "require entirely different officer skill sets."

The committee said DOPMA's up-or-out promotion system "remains an important foundation for officer personnel management. Not every officer can or should be retained for a full career." But it needs more flexibility.

Here are other key reforms in the Senate bill:

End predetermined promotion timeframes. The committee says not every officer career field should "resemble a pyramid" with a large number of junior officers

feeding fewer midlevel officers and fewer still senior officers. Some technical fields would be best served with relatively small numbers of junior officers supporting larger numbers of midlevel officers, the committee contends.

For these specialties, the bill would allow multiple promotion opportunities, abandoning concepts of in-zone, below-zone or above-zone promotion, and no longer excluding officers twice passed over for promotion to the same rank.

Having broader zones and using only an officer's up-to-date record might allow promotion of the best qualified without regard to how long they have served.

That would be a radical new promotion method if a service wanted to use it. It also would address criticism that current selection boards are reluctant to pick highly qualified officers from below zone on concern that it means not selecting a fully qualified officer expecting a due-course promotion.

Promoting high-performing officers ahead of peers. The committee would authorize selection boards to place officers of particular merit higher on regular or reserve promotion lists, ahead of officers with more seniority based on date of rank. At the January hearing, the Marine Corps expressed the greatest satisfaction with current DOPMA practices. This was the single new authority it sought to reward top performers. The committee says the Coast Guard has used similar authority extensively "for the last 16 years with great success."

Term-based selective continuation process. As a practical matter the services allow officers in the rank of O-4 to continue to serve until 20 years and retirement eligibility. With the new, more portable Blended Retirement System, senators want the services to have a term-based selective continuation tool so that a twice passed O-4 with needed skills, for example, could be continued for two years or three years and then compete again for another term. That would encourage better job performance rather than allow such officers to mark time.

Expanded spot promotion authority. Current law allows the Navy to spot promote nuclear-qualified officers to positions requiring an O-4 (lieutenant commander) or an O-5 (commander) rank. The committee wants all the services to have spot promotion authority up to the rank O-6 to retain special skills as needed.

Expand to 40 years allowable officer careers. To retain needed technical expertise, the services would have authority to extend careers of officers in O-2 and above to 40 years. Under current law, officers face mandatory retirement — for example, an O-5 at 26 years, an O-6 at 30 years — to sustain promotion opportunities for more junior officers. The services could selectively waive those mandates to keep particular skills or experience they need.

Repeat age-based officer appointment requirements. DOPMA prohibits recruitment of an officer who can't complete at least 20 years by age 62. Service rules are even tougher, declining to recruit officers older than 36 or 37. The committee wants to end the statutory bar on commissioning people older than 42 to give the services greater flexibility to bring in the expertise they need.

Send comments to Military Update, P.O. Box 231111, Centerville, Va, 20120; email miupdate@aol.com; Twitter: @Military_Update.

OPINION

NATO is still practicing for the worst

By ANNE APPELBAUM
The Washington Post

Scruffy, yellowish-brown buildings are bunched around a long courtyard; portable toilets and generators have been set up on the dusty ground beside. Inside, military-grade laptops, the kind that don't break if you drop them, are arrayed along a series of tables, their cables spooling off onto the floor. Men from different countries, some dressed in camouflage, talk in low voices. A large map of Europe's Baltic coast has been projected onto one of the walls, with different-colored markers scattered across it.

This, dear readers, is the transatlantic alliance. But this is not the transatlantic alliance in theory, the one people are discussing right now, with so much concern, from Washington to Tallinn to Montreal. This is the transatlantic alliance in practice. It's the temporary headquarters of Trojan Footprint, the largest NATO special forces training exercise in recent times, an operation involving more than 2,000 conventional and unconventional troops from more than a dozen countries, including Germany, Britain and the United States. It's not what you don't look like much from the outside, and that's partly the point. It was set up discreetly, outside a nondescript Polish village. Now that it's over, the portable toilets and

generators will be removed, the men and the laptops will go home.

The exercise was sort of undercover — I've been asked not to tell you the name of the Polish village — but not entirely. The 10th Special Forces Group, the Green Berets, who were running the operation, are happy for potential aggressors to know it took place. In particular, they are happy for the large country just to the east of Poland, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia to know they are planning and practicing for all possible scenarios, up to and including fending off a full-scale invasion.

This is not, as Russian propaganda would have it, because they want a war. This is because they do not want a war.

"Ultimately, it's about deterrence," Col. Lawrence Ferguson, the American commander of the operation, told me. "We're saying, Here's the price you would have to pay; this is the 'bitter pill' you would have to swallow."

The Green Berets have been thinking about how to deter invasion in Europe since the 1950s, though for the past 20 years, their attention mostly has been elsewhere. More recently, the Russian military buildup, the Russian invasion of Ukraine (Ferguson describes that as a "wake-up call"), as well as the intensification of anti-European propaganda in the Russian media and a series

of large-scale Russian military exercises, have set off warning bells in NATO capitals. That is especially true here in the Baltic region, because when the Russian military exercises, it practices an invasion of the Baltic states.

If this ever were to happen in real life — sparked by a real political incident, or perhaps a fake one — the first phase might end quickly. The Baltic states are tiny, and could be overrun by Russian forces within hours. That's why NATO special forces rehearsed the next steps: how to conduct reconnaissance, how to bring irregular troops into the region, how they might meet up once they got there, what they might do.

Because the real next step would involve popular resistance, civic organizations were part of the exercise too. Lt. Gen. Leonid Kalnins, the chief of national defense in Latvia, told me that his country's national guard, which includes civilians who identify as both Latvian and ethnic Russian, is a critical part of the country's military.

"Russian propaganda uses ethnic groups as the main tool to separate the society," he said. "We consider this to be hybrid warfare and are fighting against it."

Because online disinformation operations are now part of any conflict, too, some of the soldiers in the exercise used a kind of artificial internet to practice their responses.

The point of all these things is to learn lessons, to figure out what doesn't work, to find solutions — and, of course, to build relationships that someday might save lives.

Though nobody planned it this way, the timing of this exercise was significant. It is no secret that, looked at from a greater distance, the Western alliance is in deep trouble, maybe never more so than this past weekend. The American president has used a Group of Seven meeting to stage a public fight with Canada and his European allies; he has set out, deliberately, to undermine Western trade. A part of the European political class is already asking whether Russia might be a better partner than the U.S. For the foreseeable future, the news coming out about U.S.-European relations is going to be bad — maybe very bad.

So think of this column as a form of reassurance. Even as you read about fights between President Donald Trump and President Emmanuel Macron, of France, even as you read about the damage the White House is doing to the cause of democracy more generally, remember this: In various quiet corners of Europe, small groups of Americans and Europeans are still devoting their time to one another's mutual safety. If a crisis comes, we might need them.

Midterm environment is beginning to take shape

By DAVID WINSTON
CQ-Roll Call

It's June, five months out from the fall elections, and the midterm speculation has gone from a simmer to a slow boil. During the past year, thanks to an expanding body of survey research, the political conventional wisdom has evolved from wishful thinking (the blue wave is inevitable) to educated guessing (Democrats have an advantage based on past elections) to what now seems to be cautious agreement that the battle for control of Congress has become a real horse race.

Scientists argue that the presidential polls in 2016 got it wrong, and so it would be foolish to put too much stock in surveys showing Republicans gaining on what had been a huge Democrat advantage only a few months ago. While there were some problems with individual poll results in the last presidential election, especially at the state level, most national poll results in general were within the margin of error.

But the latest polls are so heavily in favor of Trump in the final days of the campaign, those believing Clinton was all but elected (most of Washington) forgot that a poll's margin of error can go either way. For example, a margin of error of plus or minus 3 points means the range could be 6 points. If Hillary Clinton was leading in a poll by 2 points, that means she could've actually been up 5 points or behind by 1 point.

Too many people saw her lead going into the last days, listened to media chatter that Trump couldn't possibly win and assumed, prematurely as it turns out, that her victory was a sure thing.

But the point is that individual polls can be wrong but trend lines generally aren't. And the trend in this year's congressional election — a race once thought to be a shoo-in for Democrats — has been moving toward the GOP.

Our recent Winning the Issues survey (May 31-June 1) shows the Democrats with a narrow 3-point advantage in the generic ballot, 45 percent to 42 percent. The Re-

It's certainly true that individual polls can be wrong but trend lines generally aren't. And the trend in this year's congressional election — a race once thought to be a shoo-in for Democrats — has been moving toward the GOP.

publicClear Politics average is at +3.2 points for Democrats at the moment. I've written before that it's too soon to bet "the ranch" on the midterms, and it still is. But we can now say that the Democrats' large advantage last fall seems to be evaporating.

For those leery of polls, another way to look at how the race for Congress is shaping up is to examine the broader strategic setting of play and the variables that may still affect the fall outcome.

While any predictions about the midterms, even five months out, is risky business, there are a few key observations we can make now. First, it is becoming increasingly evident that the pace of economic growth is beginning to quicken. The unemployment rate is remarkably low, especially for minorities; wages are ticking up; and voters are growing more bullish on the direction of the economy.

For many Americans, the jury is still out on the tax law, but there is still plenty of time for Republicans to make their case. The 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act is a solid product that offers compelling evidence of sound economic management and positive results. Combined with regulatory reform, the GOP tax policies are spurring a strong economy that is a favorable wind at the party's back.

Second, Republican voters are becoming more engaged.

The latest Winning the Issues survey put the likelihood of conservative Republicans to vote at 8.31 (on a scale of 1 to 9, with 1 being not voting at all, and 9 being absolutely voting). This score put them on par with the liberal Democrats (8.36). All Republicans were at 8.23; all Democrats at 8.05.

For all practical purposes, the so-called enthusiasm gap between the party bases has disappeared.

Third, today's environment is different from anything we've seen before. Despite the media's penchant for comparing this year to 2006, back then, our New Models Survey (May 20-21, 2006) showed that voters gave the Democrats a 4-point and 7-point edge as the party they believed would best deliver on the economy and jobs, respectively.

Today, according to the Winning the Issues survey, Republicans have the advantage.

Voters have more confidence in Republican Democrats to handle the economy (47 percent to 38 percent), jobs (45 percent to 38 percent), and taxes (43 percent to 39 percent). Our survey also showed that voters believe the Republican Party's economic theories and policies have been more successful (40 percent to 36 percent). This time around, it is the GOP who has the stronger economic message.

Despite this improving strategic setting for Republicans, there is a lot of time left on the clock. There are still five more releases of unemployment data to come. The president's trade policy could yet depress some voters in farm states, gas prices could continue to hurt the diplomacy with North Korea could implore.

In July, we'll find out if second-quarter gross domestic product growth shows a continuing strong economy or not. What the twists and turns of the Mueller and the Justice Department inspector general's investigations will do to the political environment is anybody's guess.

And finally, what about the voters themselves? The pundits missed the late movement in the polls in 2016. Undecided voters in Rust Belt states broke for Donald Trump overwhelmingly in the last weeks of the election.

Republican and Democratic brands are both negative this time around, with one out of four voters having an unfavorable view of both parties. This is not unlike the 2016 presidential candidates' high unfavorables, which brings up an important question.

How will these voters make their decision this fall? Will they make a late call again and what will drive that decision? At this point, we don't know the answer.

But there are other voter groups beyond late deciders that come into play when looking ahead strategically. Will independent women or suburban voters tip control of Congress? Will young and minority voters turn out in larger numbers than generally expected in midterm elections? We don't know that either — not yet.

This uncertainty leads to a more macro question. Does the broader strategic setting — the growing economy, the hardening partisan divide, the unique political environment created by this president — favor one party's strategy over the other's? In truth, campaign strategies are fragile things easily overwhelmed by events. They are created with a kind of "use by" date that dictates if circumstances change, so must the campaign's strategic thinking.

So here we are, five months to a crucial election, which can be a blink of an eye or a seeming eternity depending on a political campaign's fortunes. Given the variables at play, both parties should be ready to react to events, shift gears and reorient their message if necessary.

Winston Churchill, a master strategist, put it this way: "However beautiful the strategy, you should occasionally look at the results."

David Winston is the president of The Winston Group and a longtime adviser to congressional Republicans.

WORLD

Spurned by US, Iran angered over talks by Trump, North Korea

By NASSER KARIMI
Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — For Iran, the so-called “Axis of Evil” has boiled down to a party of one, as President Donald Trump prepares for direct talks with North Korea.

With Saddam Hussein overthrown and Kim Jong Un now preparing for a planned meeting in Singapore with Trump, Iran remains the last renegade among former President George W. Bush’s grouping of nations opposed to the U.S.

For those in Tehran, whether hard-liners, reformists or people simply trying to get by in Iran’s worsening economy, it’s head-spinning, especially after seeing Trump pull America out of the nuclear deal with world powers.

“I am buying my insulin shots at double the price only because of Trump’s decision,” fumed Najmeh Songhori, 35, a diabetic mother of two standing in front of a pharmacy in central Tehran. “Meanwhile, he is trying to reach a deal with North Korea. Who is going to trust him?” It wasn’t supposed to be like this. Excited crowds flooded the streets after the 2015 nuclear deal that Iran struck with world powers, including the U.S. under President Barack Obama.

The deal saw Iran agree to limit uranium enrichment in its nuclear program, which the West feared could be used to build a nuclear weapon. For Iran, which long has maintained its atomic program was for peaceful purposes, the deal took the shackles of sanctions off its economy and opened up its oil sales abroad.

No one believed it would bring massive change to Iran, which remains a Shiite theocracy overseen by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. But many hoped it would encourage further negotiations aimed at normalizing Iran’s relationships with the wider world.

Then came Trump, who campaigned pledging to tear up the nuclear deal. Once elected, he included Iran in his travel bans, blocking Iranians from traveling to the U.S., home to a large Iranian community.

Then on May 8, Trump followed through on his threat and pulled America out of the nuclear agreement, dooming billions of dollars of business deals, including Boeing sales.

“At the point when the United States had maximum leverage, this disastrous deal gave this regime — and it’s a regime of great terror — many billions of dollars, some of it in actual cash — a great embarrassment to me as a citizen and to all citizens of the United States,” Trump said then.

At the same time, Trump had traded his criticism of Kim Jong Un, a leader he once derided as “Little Rocket Man” on Twitter, for hopes of a one-on-one meeting.

“I think Trump lost the chance to work with Iran,” said Mansour Ahmadpour, 43, a taxi driver in Tehran. “I learned in my life that leaving for another table is a sign of weakness when your partners are waiting for you.”

Iran may have lost in the arrangement, too. United Nations reports and Western countries say Pyongyang sold ballistic missile technology to Iran, helping it raise cash to avoid international sanctions. Iran has never acknowledged purchasing missile technology from North Korea, but hard-liners within Iran long have applauded Pyongyang’s tough line against the U.S.



JESCO DENZEL, GERMAN FEDERAL GOVERNMENT/AP

German Chancellor Angela Merkel, center, speaks with President Donald Trump during the G-7 Leaders Summit in La Malbaie, Quebec, Canada, on Saturday.

Trump pulls out of joint G-7 statement, attacks Trudeau

By CATHERINE LUCEY,
ROB GILLIES and KEN THOMAS
Associated Press

LA MALBAIE, Quebec — The annual G-7 summit appeared to have weathered tensions over President Donald Trump’s threats of a tariff-fueled trade war until the mercurial American pulled out of a joint statement, while citing “false statements” by Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

It was an unprecedented attack on the leader of the U.S. neighbor and ally.

Trump was aboard Air Force One, heading to a historic summit with North Korea’s Kim Jong Un, when he issued a pair of tweets Saturday criticizing the G-7 host and stepping back from the generally positive tone that had ended the two-day meeting. A few hours earlier, Trudeau had told reporters that all seven leaders had come together to sign the joint declaration.

Trudeau said he had reiterated to Trump that tariffs would harm industries and workers on both sides of the U.S.-Canada border. He said unleashing retaliatory measures “is not something I relish doing” but that he wouldn’t hesitate to do so because “I will always protect Canadian workers and Canadian interests.”

“As Canadians, we are polite, we’re reasonable, but also we will not be pushed around,” Trudeau said, and he described all seven leaders coming together to sign a joint declaration despite having “some strong, firm conversations on trade, and specifically on American tariffs.”

In the air by then, Trump tweeted: “Based on Justin’s false statements at his news conference, and the fact that Canada is charging massive Tariffs to our U.S. farmers, workers and companies, I

Putin: Set to meet Trump whenever US is ready

Associated Press

QINGDAO, China — Russian President Vladimir Putin said Sunday that he’s happy to meet with President Donald Trump once Washington is ready to host the summit and welcomed Trump’s call to bring Moscow back into the G-7 group of leading industrialized nations.

Speaking to reporters in Qingdao, China, Putin said that some nations, including Austria, have offered to host his summit with Trump, should they have one.

“The U.S. president has repeatedly said that it’s reason-

able to hold such a meeting,” Putin said on the sidelines of a summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. “As soon as the U.S. side is ready, the meeting will take place, depending, of course, on my working schedule.”

Putin said he shares Trump’s expression of concern about a renewed arms race expressed in a March phone call.

“I can confirm that President Trump voiced concern about a new round of arms race in our latest call,” Putin said. “I fully agree with him,” he said, adding that personal meetings and work by experts are needed to tackle the issue.

have instructed our U.S. Reps not to endorse the Communiqué as we look at Tariffs on automobiles flooding the U.S. Market!”

He followed up by tweeting: “PM Justin Trudeau of Canada acted so meek and mild during our @G7 meetings only to give a news conference after I left saying that, “US Tariffs were kind of insulting” and he “will not be pushed around.” Very dishonest & weak. Our Tariffs are in response to his of 270% on dairy!”

A spokesman for Trudeau did not address Trump’s insults in a statement. “We are focused on everything we accomplished here at the #G7 summit,” spokesman Cameron Ahmad said. “The Prime Minister said nothing he hasn’t said before — both in public, and in private conversations with the President.”

Reporters asked Trudeau for his reaction as he and his wife and another couple took an evening stroll, but the prime minister begged off. “Good to see you guys ... It’s a beautiful evening, a great weekend,” he said.

Before leaving for Singapore, Trump had delivered a stark warning to America’s trading partners not to counter his decision to impose tariffs on steel and aluminum imports. But Trudeau, whose nation was among those singled out by Trump, pushed back and said he would not hesitate to retaliate against his neighbor to the south.

“If they retaliate, they’re making a mistake,” Trump declared before departing the annual Group of Seven summit, which also includes Britain, Italy, France, Germany and Japan.

Guatemalan volcano emits another hot sediment flow

Associated Press

ESCUINTLA, Guatemala — Guatemala’s Volcano of Fire released a flow of burning sediment and rock Saturday, causing authorities to order new preventative evacuations almost a week after the initial eruption left at least 110 people dead and about 200 missing.

Guatemala’s seismology and vulcanology institute said the new lahar — a flow of mud, debris, water and pyroclastic material — was fed by rains and tore down trees as it swept through ravines and gullies.

Later Saturday, a rise in the Panaleon river caused by the new outflow led authorities to evacuate 72 people from the community of Santa Lucia Cotzumalguapa.

Institute director Eddy Sanchez

said the risks from the Volcano of Fire are not over even though its activity has been decreasing. He said the last time it erupted it took 2½ weeks for the volcano to return to normal.

Official search efforts for the missing were suspended for the third straight day Saturday amid dangerous conditions. Lost in places like San Miguel Los Lotes, families and volunteers continued the search.

More than 4,000 people remained in shelters after last Sunday’s eruption, where aid has begun arriving along with complaints about how it is being distributed.

Authorities in Guatemala already have launched an investigation into the official response to the crises.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Diaper-wearing monkey attacks store worker

FL OKEECHOBEE — A diaper-wearing monkey escaped a truck and attacked a Home Depot employee as the worker tried to locate the monkey's owner.

The monkey bit and scratched Marilyn Howard on the back, arm and face during the attack last week in Okeechobee.

Howard encountered the leashed monkey in the parking lot and was taking it to the service desk inside in an effort to locate the owner.

A witness' video obtained by television station WPBF shows the monkey getting startled when passing through the store's sliding doors.

The monkey's owner was able to locate the monkey and bring her under control.

Chicken that survived truck spill dies

DE MILFORD — A chicken that had been the sole survivor of a truck spill that killed thousands of birds died.

News outlets reported that the chicken died Thursday despite a fundraising campaign that raised more than \$1,300 for its care.

Animal rights activists found the chicken amid the wreckage from Wednesday's accident and named it June.

A tractor-trailer hauling the chickens to a Pease Farms processing plant overturned near Middletown.

Historic tall ship returns to Boston

MA BOSTON — A majestic tall ship from Portugal sailed back to Boston.

Sagres, a three-masted Portuguese Navy barque, was open for public viewing over the weekend.

The 294-foot vessel is used for training in its home country.

Ship watchers in Boston may remember Sagres for the distinctive red crosses that decorate 10 of its 22 sails.

The ship has visited more than 60 countries and circumnavigated the globe three times, most recently in 2010 during a voyage of approximately 35,000 miles.

Register of Historic Places adds windmill

MI HOLLAND — A windmill in western Michigan that's a popular tourist attraction has been added to the National Register of Historic Places.

The National Park Service said the De Zwaan Windmill at Windmill Island Gardens in Holland was added to the register following several years of efforts to have it recognized. The windmill earlier was recognized with a state historical marker.

The city of Holland is known for its Dutch heritage and hosts the annual Tulip Time festival. The windmill, which was brought to Michigan from the Netherlands in the 1960s, was rededicated in 2014 and underwent about \$760,000 in restoration and repairs.

THE CENSUS

50K

The number of bees in three active hives that Mamaroneck High School's first beekeeping team is caring for. Dozens of science students at the Westchester County, N.Y., school observe and keep the bees to learn how the insects collect pollen, create combs and produce honey. When the honey is ready for harvest, students in the school's culinary program will use it for specialty recipes.



Waffle House reopens after rodent infestation

DE SMYRNA — A Delaware Waffle House location where inspectors found mouse droppings in the kitchen and mold in the ice cream machine has been allowed to reopen.

Division of Public Health spokeswoman Jen Brestel said the Waffle House in Smyrna met all of its requirements and was allowed to reopen for business.

A Burger King in Delaware had been ordered closed after a video of rodents among hamburger buns went viral, but it was permitted to reopen June 4.

Deputy fired after unseating sheriff

SD TYNDALL — A South Dakota sheriff's department was inundated with phone calls condemning a sheriff

for firing a deputy who defeated him in a primary race.

The Bon Homme County sheriff's department alerted county commissioners last week that the overwhelming response to the firing is affecting the agency's ability to do its job, the Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan reported.

Sheriff Lenny Gramkow fired deputy Mark Maggs almost immediately after Maggs defeated him by a vote of 878-331 in last Tuesday's Republican primary. Maggs will assume office in January, but the father of four is jobless for now.

Caller complains over football practice music

WY LARAMIE — Someone called the police on Wyoming's only college football team.

The caller complained that University of Wyoming football players were playing music too loudly

during practice at War Memorial Stadium. The stadium got a jumbotron with an improved speaker system a couple years ago.

Laramie police got the call at 7 a.m. Friday — too early, apparently, for at least one person in the neighborhood to listen to loud workout music.

Wyoming receiver Austin Conway tweeted later, "Who calls the police on their football team?"

Town spends \$40K a year to unclog sewers

CT STONINGTON — Officials in Connecticut say a town is spending about \$40,000 annually unclogging sewer system pumps that are damaged by flushable wipes and grease.

Stonington Water Pollution Control Authority Director Douglas Nettleton told The Day that sewer systems and pumps aren't designed to handle garbage. Nettleton said plastic bags, feminine

products and other items increase the chances of a system failure.

Customers are charged higher fees to offset the cost of unclogging and repairing sewer systems. Rates have increased for the last three years.

Big Boy is back in downtown Cincinnati

OH CINCINNATI — A popular Cincinnati restaurant chain made its return to the city's downtown last week.

Frisch's opened its Carey Tower location to the public Wednesday. It closed its last downtown Cincinnati restaurant in 2004.

Atlanta-based private equity firm NRDC Capital bought the chain from its family ownership in 2015. Long an iconic Cincinnati brand, Frisch's has the Big Boy trademark in the region and operates restaurants in Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky.

From wire reports

Some like it not

"Forever Marilyn," a 26-foot statue by Seward Johnson honoring actress Marilyn Monroe, is seen Thursday in Latham Park in Stamford, Conn. The newly installed statue is scandalizing some because its rear end is facing the entrance of the First Congregational Church.

Photos by Michael Curmo, Hearst Connecticut Media/AP

FACES

ROAD READY



ROBERT E. KLEIN, INVISION/AP

Imagine Dragons — with lead guitarist Wayne Sermon, percussionist and lead vocalist Dan Reynolds and drummer Daniel Platzman — performs in Massachusetts on June 6. The band's second leg of its *Evolve* World Tour started last week.

How to prep for a world tour, according to Imagine Dragons

BY MESFIN FEKAU
Associated Press

If you see Imagine Dragons lead singer Dan Reynolds out in public and you think he's ignoring you — he isn't, he's just trying to stay ready for his live concerts.

"I'll wear a sign typically that says 'vocal silence,' then like a frowny face, and I'll put that on anytime that I have a day off," said the 30-year-old rocker, whose band kicked off the second leg of its *Evolve* World Tour last week.

"Two-hour shows that many days a week is just intense."

The Grammy-winning quartet is known for their powerful live performances, with Reynolds working

the entire stage with full energy during hits like "Radioactive" and "Believer."

"It's just like being a professional athlete, except for your voice. You have to take it that seriously at this level. I don't know how artists maintain (themselves) on the road and live an unhealthy lifestyle. Actually they don't. Those are the bands I think that break up, they cancel a lot of show dates, or they just sound really bad live," he said. "I don't want any of those options."

He said his band has "canceled, I think, one show in our career and we've played thousands and thousands of shows."

Reynolds breaks down what he does to stay healthy and fit on the road and discusses how tour life has changed since Imagine Dragons started performing shows together a decade ago.

IT'S NOT FOOD, IT'S FUEL

Reynolds could easily afford a personal chef while on the road — but it would be a waste of money: His diet is super basic and doesn't change.

"I'm such a creature of habit. When I'm on the road I really become so boring. ... Food is just fuel for me. It's not like an enjoyable thing," he said. "When I'm on the road it turns into, 'What is the cleanest source of energy for me? I eat really the same thing every day,'" he said.

He'll have oatmeal and eggs for breakfast, while lunch and dinner could range from chicken, fish or lamb, along with brown rice, vegetables or sweet potatoes. He cuts out all sugar, bread and dairy.

Reynolds says he'll eat every 90 minutes until about three to four hours before he hits the stage because he prefers to sing on an empty stomach. "That gives me a lot more to pull from, so you're not burping onstage and you're not having any acid reflux or anything," he said. "I don't eat when I get off stage either," he added. "I try to go to bed right after."

EXERCISING THE DEMONS

Now a personal trainer is something Reynolds needs on the road. Part of the reason for that is because the singer has ankylosing spondylitis, a form of arthritis that causes inflammation of the spinal joints that can lead to severe, chronic pain and discomfort.

"One of the best ways to thwart it off without taking immunosuppressants is to really get your blood flowing through your whole body and all your joints every single day. You have to be really active, long story short," he explained. "A two-hour show every night, it's not enough for me to keep the inflammation at bay. Really what does that is a lot of power lifting, a lot of Olympic lifting, so that's really what I'm focused on with my trainer," he added.

Reynolds says he also works out daily "for my mental sanity; just because it keeps me happy."

NO, NO, NO TO H2O

When Beyoncé slayed at Coachella this year, some noted that she performed for nearly two hours with a single drop of water.

But Reynolds said that might have been for a purpose. "Even though that might sound like ... she couldn't find time for it, it also very well may be a conscious choice just as a singer," he said. "For instance, if you're drinking too much water, your diaphragm, it makes it harder to sing. It's kind of an old wives' tale that you need to drink water when you're singing to sound better."

However, before shows Reynolds says he drinks lots of water — about a gallon a day — which helps him when he's not taking water breaks during his shows.

PIMP MY RIDE

When Imagine Dragons first hit the road as a band, they didn't even have a tour bus — they used their own car. That's why, now, it's OK for the group to splurge on a fancy tour bus. He says now "we try to get the top-class tour bus because that's your home, so you try to make the best of it." Their current bus is decked out with a kitchenette and a living room, though Reynolds said "you spend such little time in a tour bus." "Every day we try to get out of the tour bus as quick as we can to hit the town to kind of see what's around you, and breathe a little fresh air," he said.

Compared to flying, the bus is convenient when the Reynolds' three young daughters join him on the road. "They go to bed at like 6:30 p.m. Sometimes my 5-year-old goes to bed at 9 p.m., so she'll watch part of the show," he said.

'black-ish' star Ross says 'black-ish' episode shelving was 'frightening'

From wire reports

Tracee Ellis Ross never got an answer for why an episode of "black-ish" that covered the NFL kneeling protest was pulled — a situation she describes as "frightening."

ABC shelved the politically charged episode in February without providing an explanation as for why.

"The details of why the episode was pulled and everything that has surrounded that, I do not have the answers for," Ross says in a new roundtable conversation for *The Hollywood Reporter*. "To a certain extent, I have purposefully stayed out of those conversations because I've had no power to do something beyond that."

"I have asked for the information and pushed for the information that I felt would be helpful to me and constructive in what I can do with it, because I find it frightening," she said.

The actress — who stars as Dr. Rainbow Johnson — noted that the "black-ish" cast is regularly involved in discussions about the content of their episodes.

The episode in question was originally slated to air Feb. 22 and was expected to feature several political and social stories, including an argument about NFL players kneeling during the national anthem as a form of protest, *Variety* reported earlier this year.

The network's entertainment president, Channing Dungey, contended in May that the NFL protest portion of the show was not what led to it getting pulled, and said it was a mutual decision between ABC and "black-ish" creator Kenya Barris to make the move. "We have always traditionally been able to come to a place creatively where we felt good about the story he was telling, even if we felt like it was push-

ing some hot buttons and he felt he was sharing the story the way it should be shared," she told reporters in a conference call, according to *Variety*. "I think with this particular episode, there were a number of elements to the episode that we had a hard time coming to terms on."

"Much has been made of the sort of kneeling part of it, which was not even really the issue."

Former Fleetwood Mac guitarist dies at age 68

NEW YORK — Mick Fleetwood said former Fleetwood Mac guitarist Danny Kirwan has died at age 68.

Fleetwood said in a Facebook post that Kirwan died Friday in London. No cause of death was given.

Kirwan was part of the iconic band from 1968-72, playing on the albums "Then Play On," "Blues

Jam at Chess," "Kiln House," "Future Games" and "Bare Trees."

Fleetwood wrote that Kirwan's legacy "will forever live on in the music he wrote and played so beautifully as a part of the foundation of Fleetwood Mac."

Kirwan was among the eight members of the band — along with Fleetwood, Stevie Nicks, Lindsey Buckingham, Peter Green, John McVie, Christine McVie and Jeremy Spencer — who were inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 1998.

Other news

■ The first royal jewel from Prince's legendary vault was unveiled June 7 to mark the singer's 60th birthday: Warner Bros. Records announced plans to release a collection of solo-piano recordings made in 1983, just before he broke big. The nine-song album, "Piano & a Microphone

1983," will arrive Sept. 21 on vinyl, CD and digital formats. It's just one of three albums of unreleased recordings announced for the fall.

■ Lin-Manuel Miranda's Tony-winning musical "In the Heights" will hit theaters June 26, 2020, Warner Bros. announced June 7.

■ The Americana Music Association will honor Canadian singer-songwriter k.d. lang, a four-time Grammy winner, with its trailblazer award at the Americana Honors and Awards show in Nashville on Sept. 12.

■ Pippa Middleton is about to be a mother. The younger sister of Catherine, the Duchess of Cambridge, revealed the publication *Waitrose* the "happy news" of her pregnancy and says she has passed her first trimester. This will be the 34-year-old's first child. She married hedge fund manager James Matthews in 2017.

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The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market

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BUSINESS/WEATHER

Future of retail may rest with smartphones

By **KYLE STOCK**
Bloomberg

Young, distracted and styled just-so, Anissa Kheloufi is part of a growing genre of Instagram junkies. As the 21-year-old flits around the Paris suburb of Saint Ouen, she's incessantly snapping photos and videos. Usually they're of her friend Cynthia Karsenty, who preens for the camera in swanky clothes ranging from high-waisted shorts and pin-striped jumpers to big, fuzzy slippers.

It is, by all appearances, a parade of self-indulgence — a life over-edited and ultra-shared. But what the eye-rolling onlooker doesn't understand is that Kheloufi is building an apparel empire one snap at a time, one that pulls in close to \$40,000 a month.

Her social media fodder sends a steady stream of shoppers to Belmiraz, the apparel company she founded after tiring of law school. It includes a web store as well as boutiques located in Casablanca and Paris. Mostly,

however, Kheloufi's customers purchase their items in the same way she sells them: by app.

"I think I have the phone sewn onto my hand," Kheloufi told Bloomberg. "My loved ones are fed up with it."

The future of retail isn't e-commerce or omni-channel or pop-up shops or geo-fenced flash sales. The future of retail is palm-sized. As social media consumerism cultivates a growing crop of scrappy brands, these retail entrepreneurs are skipping the computer altogether (let alone brick-and-mortar shops), instead displaying and selling products exclusively via smartphone.

And the phenomenon is accelerating. Two big reasons for this entrepreneurial shift are video and Instagram (and video on Instagram). In recent years, both have had an increasingly outsized impact on how consumers shop, one that shows no signs of abating. Big retailers have grown wise to it, too, as more of them are lured away from a traditional

focus on desktop transactions. Back in August 2016, Facebook-owned Instagram began letting its users click through the phone app to a brand's retail site. It also added "Stories," a Snapchat-like feed of temporary posts better suited for video. A few months later, Instagram let 20 select companies, including J. Crew, Macy's and Warby Parker, tag products in Instagram posts and route people to a store link where they could "shop now."

Just like that, a virtual shopping mall was born.

Salesforce.com says 5 percent of digital retail traffic now flows through social channels. ViSenze, a visual search company, found that of people who use social media, one in three makes a purchase every month through a platform such as Instagram, Facebook, Pinterest or Snapchat.

At companies such as Belmiraz, which mostly sell to young buyers, the numbers are far higher. Kheloufi said 90 percent of her company's revenue flows through

Instagram, where she connects with 119,000 followers.

Not surprisingly, digital platforms that cater to aspiring e-commerce titans like her are hustling to tweak their products for iPhone-only use. Tictail, the do-it-yourself marketplace where Kheloufi's Belmiraz sells her wares, overhauled its platform recently to allow vendors to post directly to Instagram's Story forum. It also lets retailers add text "stickers" and links that make it easier for shoppers to click through to purchase or figure out their shipping costs. When Tictail rolled out a feature allowing sellers to directly post video product listings, the platform promptly saw engagement on those items almost quadruple, according to Chief Executive Officer Carl Rivera.

Shopify, which hosts digital stores for some 600,000 merchants, has made similar moves, launching its deep integration with Instagram in October. Half of Shopify's clients are actively

using a mobile app it built exclusively for merchants. Over the past year, the shopping site has seen a three-fold increase in retailers who do business entirely by phone, according to Lynsey Thornton, vice president of user experience.

With the rise of handheld retail, a virtually unlimited commercial space is opening up, one in which marketing, shipping and catalogs cost the wannabe retailer next to nothing; the only real overhead is the price of an iPhone.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (June 11)	\$1,2066
Dollar buys (June 11)	€9,8288
British pound (June 11)	\$1,37
Japanese yen (June 11)	107.00
South Korean won (June 11)	1,045.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3778
British pound	\$1,3412
Canada (Dollar)	1.2936
China (Yuan)	6.4080
Denmark (Krone)	6.3299
Egypt (Pound)	17,8508
Euro	\$1,1769/0.8497
Hong Kong (Dollar)	0.8463
Hungary (Forint)	247.74
Israel (Shekel)	3.5709
Japan (Yen)	109.47
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3021
Norway (Krone)	8.0541
Philippines (Peso)	52.88
Poland (Zloty)	3.64
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7502
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3350
South Korea (Won)	1,075.58
Switzerland (Franc)	0.8651
Thailand (Baht)	32.24
Turkey (Lira)	4.4729

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issue. For Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, for nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	4.75
Discount rate	2.00
Federal funds market rate	1.69
3-month bill	1.91
30-year bond	3.09

Pixar co-founder Lasseter to step down at end of year

Associated Press

NEW YORK — John Lasseter, the co-founder of Pixar Animation Studios and the Walt Disney Co.'s animation chief, will step down at the end of the year after acknowledging "misteps" in his behavior with staff members.

Disney announced Friday that Lasseter — one of the most illustrious and powerful figures in animation — will stay on through the end of 2018 as a consultant. After that he will depart Disney permanently.

Lasseter in November took what he called a six-month "sabbatical." He apologized "to

anyone who has ever been on the receiving end of an unwanted hug" or any other gesture that made them feel "disrespected or uncomfortable." At the time, Lasseter signaled that he hoped to then return to Disney. Many in Hollywood were skeptical that was possible.

"The last six months have provided an opportunity to reflect on my life, career and personal priorities," Lasseter said in a statement. "While I remain dedicated to the art of animation and inspired by the creative talent at Pixar and Disney, I have decided the end of this year is the right time to begin focusing on new creative challenges."

The 61-year-old Lasseter, easily recogniz-

able for his bright Hawaiian shirts, is the highest-ranking Hollywood executive to be toppled in the wake of the #MeToo movement that followed Harvey Weinstein's downfall in October. A pioneer in digital animation, Lasseter has been a creative force behind every Pixar release as well as Disney hits such as "Frozen," "Moana" and "Zootopia." Lasseter directed Pixar's breakthrough feature "Toy Story" as well as its first sequel, "Toy Story 2."

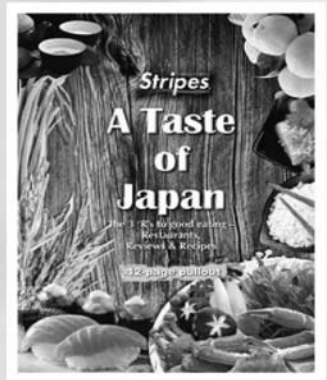
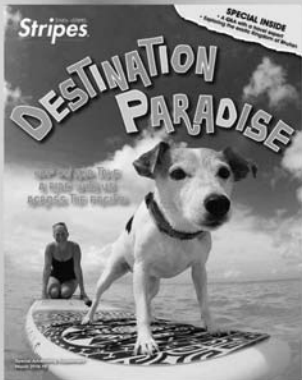
Bob Iger, chief executive of Disney, praised Lasseter for his vision and assembling storytellers and innovators "to set the standard in animation for generations to come."

WEATHER OUTLOOK



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

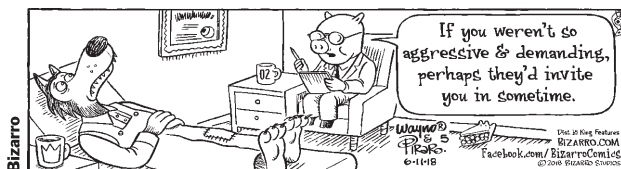
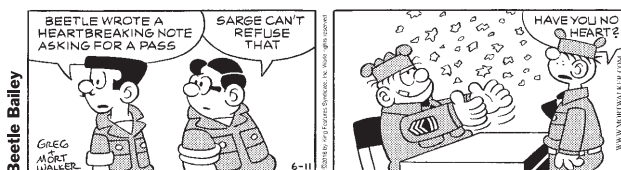
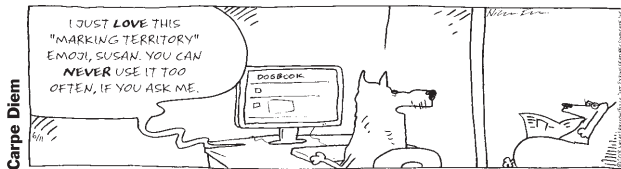
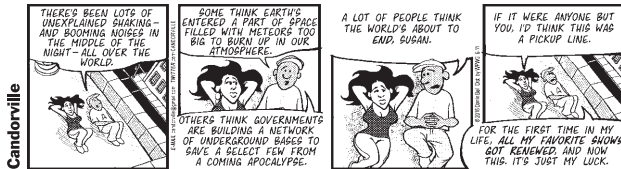
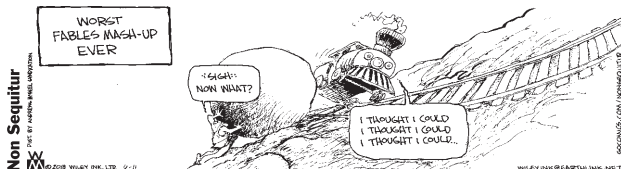
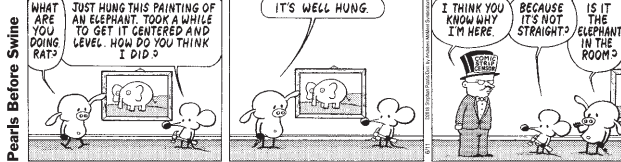
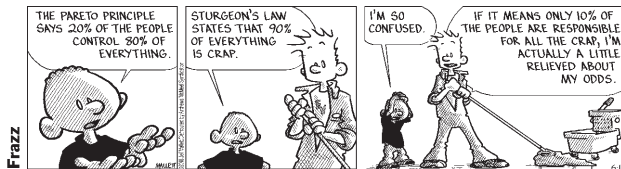
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Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9	10
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56				57				58			
59				60				61			

ACROSS

- 1 NYPD alert
- 4 Likely
- 7 Tiny branch
- 11 Nile queen, informally
- 13 Sound of relief
- 14 Greet silently
- 15 Adolescent
- 16 Frazier foe
- 17 Utah city
- 18 Less risky
- 20 Cat call
- 22 Misery
- 24 Thick milkshake
- 28 Arp's art movement
- 32 Waffle topper
- 33 Wrong
- 34 Luau bowlful
- 36 Sulk
- 37 Sweetie
- 39 Oval

- 60 Superman foe Luther
- 61 Compass dir.

- 25 Item on stage
- 26 Young seals
- 27 Duel tool
- 28 Facts and figures
- 29 MP's quarry
- 30 Let fall
- 31 Homer's bartender
- 35 —de-France
- 38 NBC sketch show
- 40 Science room feature
- 42 Painter's stand
- 45 Used a loom
- 47 Mid-month date

DOWN

- 1 Deeds
- 2 Entreaty
- 3 Complaint
- 4 Small battery
- 5 Tropical tree
- 6 Puffer
- 7 Interrogation room feature
- 8 Series of battles
- 9 "— had it!"
- 10 Jewel
- 12 Fare that doesn't include a return trip
- 19 King, in Cannes
- 21 Hosp. areas
- 23 Mentalist's claim
- 48 Salty septet
- 49 Curly cabbage
- 50 Vigor
- 51 Mound stat
- 52 Raggedy doll
- 54 —Mex cuisine

Answer to Previous Puzzle

V	A	L	O	R	T	E	M	P	E		
T	I	R	A	D	E	A	B	O	A	R	D
B	O	N	B	O	N	O	N	O	N	O	W
O	L	E	R	E	G	A	N	D	I	E	
N	I	T	S	S	A	G	N	A	C	L	
E	N	T	E	R	P	E	R	U	S	A	L
			L	I	L	R	E	D			
A	R	A	M	A	I	C	A	G	O	R	A
D	I	N	A	N	O	G	E	R	A	T	
A	G	E	L	E	G	O	S	A	M	O	
P	O	M	P	O	M	T	O	M	T	O	M
T	R	I	A	G	E	A	L	I	E	N	S
S	A	L	O	N	T	E	A	S	E		

6-11

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 G I U G C Z I O E U C Z K H V P D
 O F U M Z O P F U P Y D D C Y H C Z J H O F

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Golf

St Jude Classic PGA Tour Saturday at TPC Scottsdale Memphis, Tenn. Purse: \$6.5 million Yards: 7,244; Par 72 Third Round

Table with columns: Name, Score, Par, and other stats for the St Jude Classic.

ShorPric Classic Saturday at Stockton Seaview Hotel and GC (Bay Course)

Table with columns: Name, Score, Par, and other stats for the ShorPric Classic.

Curtis Cup At Quaker Ridge Golf Club Scarsdale, N.Y. Yards: 6,235; Par: 70 UNITED STATES, BRITAIN & IRELAND

Table with columns: Name, Score, Par, and other stats for the Curtis Cup.

Principal Charity Classic Saturday at Wakeona Club De Moines, Iowa Purse: \$1 million Yards: 6,531; Par 72 Second Round

Table with columns: Name, Score, Par, and other stats for the Principal Charity Classic.

Soccer

MLS Eastern Conference table with columns: W, L, T, PTS, GF, GA.

MLS Western Conference table with columns: W, L, T, PTS, GF, GA.

Note: Three points for victory, one point for a draw.

Sunday Sporting K.O. Timbers 0 Kansas City 1

Table with columns: W, L, T, PTS, GF, GA for Sporting KC vs Timbers.

Whitecaps 5, Orlando City 2

Table with columns: W, L, T, PTS, GF, GA for Whitecaps vs Orlando City.

Sounders 2, United 1

Table with columns: W, L, T, PTS, GF, GA for Sounders vs United.

Revolution 1, Fire 1

Table with columns: W, L, T, PTS, GF, GA for Revolution vs Fire.

Deals

Table with columns: Club, Player, Fee, and other details for player transfers.

Dynamo 2, Rapids 0

Table with columns: W, L, T, PTS, GF, GA for Dynamo vs Rapids.

FC Dallas 2, Impact 0

Table with columns: W, L, T, PTS, GF, GA for FC Dallas vs Impact.

Galaxy 3, Real Salt Lake 0

Table with columns: W, L, T, PTS, GF, GA for Galaxy vs Real Salt Lake.

Red Bulls 1, Crew 1

Table with columns: W, L, T, PTS, GF, GA for Red Bulls vs Crew.

Atlanta United 1, NYC FC 1

Table with columns: W, L, T, PTS, GF, GA for Atlanta United vs NYC FC.

NWSL

Table with columns: Team, W, L, T, PTS, GF, GA for NWSL.

US women's national team US 1, France 1

Table with columns: W, L, T, PTS, GF, GA for US vs France.

United States and Lyon, France

Table with columns: W, L, T, PTS, GF, GA for United States vs Lyon.

National League COLORADO ROCKIES

Table with columns: Team, W, L, T, PTS, GF, GA for Colorado Rockies.

Auto racing

DXC Technology 600 IndyCar

Table with columns: Driver, Team, Time, and other stats for DXC Technology 600.

Galaxy 3, Real Salt Lake 0

Table with columns: Driver, Team, Time, and other stats for Galaxy vs Real Salt Lake.

Atlanta United 1, NYC FC 1

Table with columns: Driver, Team, Time, and other stats for Atlanta United vs NYC FC.

L Ti Prinfy 250 Xfinity Series

Table with columns: Driver, Team, Time, and other stats for L Ti Prinfy 250.

College baseball

Table with columns: Division, Team, Score, and other details for college baseball games.

AT Texas Motor Speedway Fort Worth, Texas

Table with columns: Driver, Team, Time, and other stats for AT Texas Motor Speedway.

Atlanta United 1, NYC FC 1

Table with columns: Driver, Team, Time, and other stats for Atlanta United vs NYC FC.

L Ti Prinfy 250 Xfinity Series

Table with columns: Driver, Team, Time, and other stats for L Ti Prinfy 250.

Division 1 Super Regionals

Table with columns: Region, Team, Score, and other details for Division 1 Super Regionals.

AP spotlight

1898 - Willie Simms becomes the only African American player to win the Heisman Trophy.

NBA

LeBron's summer of suspense begins

Race is on to potentially sign 4-time league MVP

By Tom Withers
Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Maybe it was poetic LeBron James had a supporting cast on his injured right hand.

He was missing one in the NBA Finals. For the second time in a career still ascending after 15 years, James was on the wrong side of a sweep as the Golden State Warriors, a team with no apparent weaknesses and as many as four of the league's 10 best players on its roster, transformed into a dynasty in Cleveland late Friday.

After what may have been his final game with the Cavaliers, James revealed he hurt himself in a fit of frustration following a Game 1 overtime loss.

He displayed a soft cast on his hand during his postgame news conference and then rounded up his children and some of their friends, and along with his wife, and the usual support group of handlers and security personnel, drove home to Akron.

His next stop is unknown.

Another suspenseful summer of "Where will LeBron go next?" is off and running.

In the next few weeks, James is expected to decline his \$35.6 million contract option for next season with the Cavaliers and become an unrestricted free agent like he was in 2010 and 2014. Then the fun starts — well, officially and legally under NBA rules — and teams can begin courting King James to join them.

At the moment the list of suitors is limited, but it could grow before July as teams position themselves to acquire one of the game's most transcendent forces.

There are obvious potential landing spots, but James, who averaged 34 points, 10 assists and 8.5 rebounds against the Warriors, made it clear that any team coveting him better be prepared to win — everything.

He's still into hanging banners. "I still want to be in championship mode," the 33-year-old said following his eighth straight NBA Finals appearance. "I think I've shown this year why I will still continue to be in championship mode."

Although James may have dropped to 3-6 in the finals, it hasn't diminished his pursuit of winning a fourth title or slaying this Golden State goliath, a monster of a team he never imagined getting in his way when he made his Ohio homecoming after playing four years in Miami.

So, who has a legitimate shot at getting him?

The Philadelphia 76ers can entice James



CARLOS OSORIO/AP

Cavaliers forward LeBron James speaks during a news conference after Game 4 of the NBA Finals against the Golden State Warriors, early Saturday in Cleveland. The Warriors swept the series, setting in motion a busy summer for the league.

with young stars Joel Embiid and Ben Simmons, salary-cap space to accommodate him and other pieces, and the luxury to stay in the Eastern Conference to avoid meeting up with the Warriors until the Larry O'Brien Trophy is up for grabs.

The Lakers' sales pitch will include their current flexibility to sign another maximum contract player — maybe Paul George or Kawhi Leonard — and Hollywood's celebrity-filled hills. James already owns two homes and a film production company in Los Angeles, where the star could become a supernova.

Don't rule out the Houston Rockets,

who pushed Golden State to a Game 7 in the postseason. In presumed MVP James Harden; Chris Paul, one of James' closest friends; and bent-on-overthrowing-the-Warriors general manager Daryl Morey, the Rockets have the building blocks to assemble an uber-team.

In the end, James may decide home is still the sweetest spot.

The Cavaliers, though, have a lot of work to do to convince him he should hang around. The team's decision to trade All-Star guard Kyrie Irving last summer to Boston sparked a sequence of events that led to a mid-season overhaul, soured James

'I still want to be in championship mode.'

LeBron James

3-time NBA champion, 3-time Finals MVP

and sent him into the playoffs with a group he carried as far as humanly possible.

Cleveland can offer James more money — a five-year, \$209 million contract — than anyone else, but the larger issue is what it can do to improve a roster that's currently short on title-winning performance. The Cavs have the No. 8 overall pick in this month's draft as an asset to perhaps package with All-Star forward Kevin Love, who could finally be moved after being the subject of trade rumors for years.

And there's also the delicate matter of James' rocky relationship with team owner Dan Gilbert. The two have co-existed purely on business terms since patching things up after Gilbert eviscerated James when he bolted for Miami. It's unclear if they can move forward together.

On a podcast during the Finals, Gilbert said he views James as much more than a player.

"Legally, he may be working for our organization, but that's not really the case," Gilbert said. "He's more of your partner, really."

The comment was a concession of sorts from Gilbert, who understands what James means to his franchise and what he represents to Northeast Ohio — hope.

James came home four years ago promising to win a championship and delivered within two seasons, ending a 52-year title drought in a city he has personally helped to revitalize. The summer of 2016 was unforgettable, with a downtown parade that James has said overwhelmed him with emotion.

It may go down as his crowning achievement, or something he wants to feel again.

If so, there's only one place where that can happen.

The last time James left Cleveland it was because he needed a team to help him achieve greatness. He found it with Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh in Miami, and he came back a different man, ready to build his legacy. A father of three, his priorities have changed again, and this time the decision is more complicated.

There's a tug-of-war going on between James' brain and heart.

"When I decide what I'm going to do with my future, my family and the folks that have been with me for the last 20 years will have a say-so," he said. "Then it ultimately will come down to me."

It always does.

Things to watch this offseason

CLEVELAND — The NBA offseason has arrived, which means nothing will happen for the next four months other than a draft, three summer leagues, free agency, the creation of a new schedule, coaching hires, trades, roster reworkings and even movement toward letting high school graduates jump directly into the league again.

It all adds up to a very little downtime. There is no shortage of questions about what will happen this summer — leading off, of course, with yet another decision to be made by LeBron James about his future and where he'll continue his quest for more championships.

Here are some non-James topics heading into the offseason:

KAWHI LEONARD: The mystery of the 2017-18 NBA season is the mystery of the offseason as well. Leonard played in only nine games for the Spurs this season while dealing with a leg injury, the specifics of which are a closely guarded secret even by San Antonio's notoriously tight-lipped standards. He could get a supermax deal, he could get traded, he might still be hurt. But the Spurs — and the league — need answers, because he can change a lot of directions in a hurry.

THE DRAFT: Arizona center Deandre Ayton

will likely go No. 1 to Phoenix, which makes sense on a lot of levels. The intrigue really starts there. Does Wade Divac use the No. 2 overall pick and bring Luka Doncic, the Slovenian who has been talked about as a can't-miss NBA star for some time, to Sacramento? What does Atlanta do at No. 3? And should someone move up on draft night, it'll probably mean an established player (or players) will be on the move.

THE LAKERS: Magic Johnson and Rob Pelinka should have about \$62 million in cap space to go shopping with when free agency opens July 1 — including, for James, meaning the Lakers could become a playoff team again in a hurry.

CHRIS PAUL AND PAUL GEORGE: Again, like so many other topics, the futures of Chris Paul and Paul George will probably have some impact on whatever James decides to do this summer — or vice versa. Paul wants a max contract, and if his hamstring didn't pop late in Game 5 of the Western Conference finals he and the Houston Rockets may very well have been in the NBA Finals. George seemed to be hinting that he could stay in Oklahoma City, but it is a Los Angeles native. It seems likely that either, or both, would try to align with James — but how?

— Associated Press

BELMONT/NHL



JULIO CORTEZ/AP

Jockey Mike Smith celebrates after guiding Justify to win the Belmont and Triple Crown.

Sweep: Baffert claims second Crown

FROM BACK PAGE

winners; he's the first to sweep the series without racing at age 2 (because of a pulled muscle); and he's the only horse to beat nine rivals in the Belmont with a Triple try on the line. Slew also was a wire-to-wire Belmont winner.

Justify's handlers also made history. Baffert became the second trainer to win the Triple Crown twice, having overseen American Pharoah. James "Sunny Jim" Fitzsimmons guided Gallant Fox in 1930 and Omaha in 1935.

"It never gets old," Baffert said. "American Pharoah, he'll always be my first love." At 52, Smith became the oldest jockey to win the Triple Crown. He celebrated by grabbing white carnations from the winner's blanket and tossing them in the air.

"He just puts an old man out there to sit still, who stays out of the way and lets a good horse be a good horse," Smith said, crediting Baffert for using him.

Smith and Justify took a curtain call before entering the winner's circle. Back in New York where he dominated in the 1990s, Smith took Justify on a walk past the packed grandstand, soaking in the cheers and giving the crowd a closer look at racing's newest hero.

Justify's victory gives racing its second Triple Crown winner of the decade. The last time there were two Triple Crown champions in the same decade was in the 1970s, which produced Secretariat, Seattle Slew and Affirmed.

Purchased for \$500,000, Justify earned \$800,000 for his Belmont win, giving him \$3,798,000 in his brief career.

The powerful colt with the blaze running the length of his face showed no signs that the rigors of running a compressed schedule had gotten to him.

On a fast, dry track, Justify was just as good in his third race in five weeks at his third different track.

Sent off as the 4-5 favorite, Justify ran 1½ miles — the longest race of the series — in 2:28.18 and paid \$3.60, \$3.50 and \$2.80.

"This horse ran a tremendous race, he's so gifted," Smith said. "He's sent from heaven. I tell you, it's just amazing."

Baffert had fretted after Justify drew the No. 1 post, a spot he detests for his horses. But Smith turned it into an advantage, gunning Justify to the lead and defying any horse to challenge.

Restoring Hope, also trained by Baffert, ran interference for the champion while traveling second and deterring any threats by forcing them to go extremely wide. No-body did.

Smith got the colt into a relaxed rhythm under a moderate pace heading into the backstretch, and he had an easy trip from there.

"You can't doubt him now, there's no way," said Bill Mott, trainer of third-place Horburg. "He did it right up on the pace, and everybody had an opportunity to take their shot. They didn't do it. They let it go too easy."

There were mild bids turning for home. Vino Rosso made the most serious move to get within a length. Justify pulled away down the 1,097-yard stretch in front of screaming fans with only 24-1 shot Gronkowski picking off a half-dozen rivals in taking up the chase down the lane.

Cup party rolls on for first-time champ Caps

BY STEPHEN WHYNO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Stanley Cup champions just want to have fun. They're doing so right now.

The Washington Capitals took the Stanley Cup through the MGM Grand and to a dance club on the Las Vegas Strip. They took it to a popular bar not far from their suburban practice facility. Then they took it to Nationals Park, where they kept hoisting it from a suite to the roars of the crowd.

Hockey decisions, their individual Cup days and change line ahead. This weekend is for celebrating.

"We're getting days with the Cup right now," defenseman John Carlson said. "We got some time to worry about the other stuff."

From Las Vegas to Washington and with more than a few drinks in between, the Capitals are acting as if they haven't been here before — because they haven't. They're the first NHL Cup champion since the Los Angeles Kings in 2012 and finally are atop the NHL after nine early playoff exits.

Ovechkin is taking every chance he can get to lift the Cup, whether it was coming off the plane with Nicklas Backstrom on Friday or on the field Saturday before and after his two tries at a ceremonial first pitch.

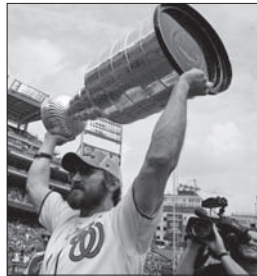
"I just Cup holder right now," Ovechkin said.

Chugging beers during a TV interview, Capitals players broke out into an impromptu rendition of Queen's "We Are The Champions" and swayed together when it was played during the seventh-inning stretch. The first Cup is bringing out the deepest emotions for the superstar captain and his teammates and coaches.

"I still can't believe it," Ovechkin said. "I think no one still can believe like we did and we are right now Stanley Cup champions. But it's great, I think. Something you will never forget."

Just seeing the Cup in person was a thrill for the Nationals' Max Scherzer and Ryan Zimmerman, who dressed up in full hockey gear to pump up fans before Game 4 of the Cup Final. They got a sneak peek that night, and the trophy was in their clubhouse Saturday on its annual whirlwind tour that includes the District of Columbia for the first time.

"It's easily the best trophy in all of sports, just the stories and how it's the same Cup every year," Zimmerman said. "I'm big into that history and it's awe-



ALEX BRANDON/AP

Capitals captain Alex Ovechkin lifts the Stanley Cup on the field Saturday before a baseball game between the Nationals and the Giants in Washington.

some how they've kind of maintained that throughout the years."

The start of the next quest for the Cup begins in less than three months, and the coming days and weeks will bring clarity on the futures of Carlson, coach Barry Trotz and Washington's other free agents. On Saturday, the 55-year-old Trotz brushed aside any conversation about a new contract.

"I'm not in any state to talk," Trotz said. "I always talked about having really good clarity and calm and all that. I don't have a lot of clarity right now. That's self-inflicted."

Scherzer tweeted the day after the Capitals' Cup clincher, "Thank God I don't have pitch today because last night was nuts." Scherzer stayed up late Thursday watching the festivities.

"Yeah and some celebration and stuff," Scherzer said. "I had a good time." No one's going to take issue with the Capitals having a good time after they became just the second team in NHL history to win the Cup after trailing in all four playoff series.

The Capitals are only now decompressing — without a whole lot of sleep.

"Not much," Carlson said. "A couple naps." It's not going to stop until at least Tuesday, when the Capitals parade the Cup down Constitution Avenue and are feted at a rally on the National Mall.

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ST. LOUIS CARDINALS

American League East Division table with columns for Team, W, L, Pct, GB, and individual player stats.

National League East Division table with columns for Team, W, L, Pct, GB, and individual player stats.

American League West Division table with columns for Team, W, L, Pct, GB, and individual player stats.

National League West Division table with columns for Team, W, L, Pct, GB, and individual player stats.

Saturday's games table listing game results for various teams.

Sunday's games table listing game results for various teams.

Monday's games table listing game results for various teams.

Tuesday's games table listing game results for various teams.

Wednesday's games table listing game results for various teams.

Thursday's games table listing game results for various teams.

Astros 4, Rangers 3 table with player stats for Houston and Texas teams.

Blue Jays 4, Orioles 3 (10) table with player stats for Toronto and Baltimore teams.

Cardinals 6, Reds 4 table with player stats for St. Louis teams.

Tigers 4, Indians 2 (12) table with player stats for Detroit and Cleveland teams.

Braves 5, Dodgers 3 table with player stats for Atlanta and Los Angeles teams.

Padres 5, Marlins 4 table with player stats for San Diego and Miami teams.

Angels 2, Twins 1 table with player stats for Los Angeles and Minnesota teams.

Diamondbacks 12, Rockies 7 table with player stats for Arizona and Colorado teams.

Yankees 4, Mets 3 table with player stats for New York teams.

Red Sox 4, White Sox 2 table with player stats for Boston and Chicago teams.

Brewers 12, Phillies 3 table with player stats for Milwaukee and Philadelphia teams.

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Seattle table with player stats for Seattle team.

Tampa Bay table with player stats for Tampa Bay team.

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Nationals 7, Giants 5 table with player stats for San Francisco and Washington teams.

Seattle table with player stats for Seattle team.

Tampa Bay table with player stats for Tampa Bay team.

MLB

Judge HR in 8th lifts Yanks over slumping Mets

Bronx Bombers on pace to break home run mark

By BEN WALKER
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Once this Subway Series showdown turned into a game of home run derby, there was no doubt who was going to win.

The only real question: Who would go deep for the Yankees?

It was Aaron Judge, hitting a tiebreaking drive in the eighth inning that sent the Yankees over the Mets 4-3 Saturday night for their sixth straight victory in the all-New York matchup.

“Obviously, our team hits a lot of balls into the seats,” winning pitcher David Robertson said.

Rookie Gleyber Torres and Miguel Andujar also homered at Citi Field, ensuring the Empire State Building would be sparking in Yankees team colors. They have won four in a row overall and nine of 10.

On a night when every run scored on a homer, the team with the power-packed lineup from top to bottom launched the winning longball.

“Who are you going to try to go after?” Judge said. “It’s kind of fun to watch.”

The Mets built a 3-0 lead on first-inning homers by Todd Frazier and Asdrubal Cabrera,



BILL KOSTROUN/AP

The Yankees' Aaron Judge, right, celebrates his tiebreaking home run with teammate Gary Sanchez during the eighth inning of Saturday's game against the Mets in New York. The Yankees won 4-3.

but still lost their eighth in a row — their longest skid since an 11-game slide in 2004.

“I felt all night like we were

going to win a game tonight,” manager Mickey Callaway said.

The Mets have dropped 10 straight at Citi Field, their worst

drought at home since losing a team-record 15 in a row at Shea Stadium in 2002, the Elias Sports Bureau said.

By the numbers

42-18

The Yankees' record, best in the major leagues.

103

Total home runs hit by the Yankees this season — on pace to break the all-time mark of 264 hit by the Seattle Mariners in 1997.

62

Total home runs hit by the Mets this season, ranking them 25th in the majors.

The Mets have lost eight games in a row, their worst stretch since an 11-game skid in 2004.

SOURCE: Associated Press

Roundup

Cubs 1-hit Pirates for 11th win in 13 games

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Jon Lester combined with two relievers on a one-hitter, and the Cubs took advantage of a first-inning slip by center fielder Starling Marte in a 2-0 victory Saturday over the Pittsburgh Pirates, Chicago's 11th win in 13 games.

Lester (7-2) allowed a two-out triple in the third to Austin Meadows, then retired Starling Marte on a groundout. Lester struck out five and walked two in seven innings, improving to 5-1 in his past six starts.

Justin Wilson and Steve Cishek each pitched a perfect inning. Cishek got his second save as the Cubs remained a half-game behind NL Central-leading Milwaukee.

Nick Kingham (2-3) allowed both runs and four hits in 6½ innings. Pittsburgh lost for the sixth time in seven games and is 5-16 following a 26-17 start, losing seven straight series.

Brewers 12, Phillies 3: Ji-Man Choi hit a go-ahead, pinch-hit grand slam in the sixth inning, and Jesus Aguilar and Jonathan Villar also went deep in visiting Milwaukee's victory over Philadelphia.

Aguilar also doubled and drove in three runs, and Christian Yelich had three hits for the Brewers, who won their second straight over the Phillies while outscoring Philadelphia 24-7 to keep hold of first place in the NL Central.

Diamondbacks 12, Rockies 7: Paul Goldschmidt had his second straight two-homer game and drove in four runs, and Arizona took advantage of a double error by Brian Shaw to rally past host Colorado.

Goldschmidt went 3-for-4 — his fourth straight game with at least three hits — and has 16 hits in eight games in June after collecting 14 hits in 27 games in May.

Nationals 7, Giants 5: Bryce Harper hit his National League-leading 19th homer, and Washington beat visiting San Francisco.

Adam Eaton scored two runs in his return from the disabled list for Washington.

Cardinals 6, Reds 4: Yadier Molina doubled with the bases loaded, and Michael Wacha pitched two-run ball into the sixth inning, leading St. Louis to its 13th straight win over host Cincinnati.

The Cardinals also homered three times as they extended their second-longest streak of domination in a rivalry that goes back to the 1800s. They beat them 18 times in a row in 1930-31.

Red Sox 4, White Sox 2: J.D. Martinez hit a tiebreaking two-run homer, David Price pitched six solid innings to win his fifth straight decision and Boston rebounded from a series-opening loss to beat visiting Chicago.

Jackie Bradley Jr. added a solo shot for Boston, which avoided tying its season-high three-game losing streak.

Astros 4, Rangers 3: George Springer hit a tiebreaking single in the seventh inning, and Houston overcame a wild start from Charlie Morton to beat host Texas.

Morton tied an American League record with four hit batters and had a career-high six walks as the Astros allowed 10 walks, a season high. But the Rangers tied a club record with 17 runners left on base in a nine-inning game, most in the majors without extra innings this season.

Royals 2, Athletics 0: Danny Duffy pitched seven innings of three-hit ball, and visiting Kansas City beat Oakland to snap a six-game skid.

Duffy (3-6) struck out a season-high 10 and walked three.

Angels 2, Twins 1: Albert Pujols hit his 623rd career homer and tied Stan Musial for seventh on the career RBI list with 1,951, helping Los Angeles beat host Minnesota after a four-hour rain delay.

Pujols' solo home run in the sixth proved to be the difference as Tyler Skaggs (5-4) allowed one run in seven innings and matched a season best with eight strikeouts.

Tigers 4, Indians 2 (12): Jeimer Candelario's two-run homer in the 12th inning gave Detroit the victory over visiting Cleveland.

Miguel Cabrera singled off Cody Allen (2-3) with two outs, and Candelario drove a 2-0 pitch deep into the right-field stands for the first game-ending homer of his career.

Brewers 5, Dodgers 3: Freddie Freeman had three hits, Tyler Flowers drove in three runs and Atlanta beat host Los Angeles.

Rays 7, Mariners 3: Blake Snell overcame occasional wildness to go six effective innings as host Tampa Bay stopped an eight-game skid by beating Seattle.

Padres 5, Marlins 4: Travis Jankowski hit a go-ahead bases-loaded single in the eighth inning to lift San Diego over host Miami.

Blue Jays 4, Orioles 3 (10): Luke Maile drove in the winning run with a bases-loaded walk in the 10th inning, and Toronto beat visiting Baltimore.



DAVID BANKS/AP

The Cubs' Jason Heyward reacts after hitting a double against the Pittsburgh Pirates during the first inning of Saturday's game in Chicago. The Cubs won 2-0, their 11th victory in 13 games.

MMA/COLLEGE BASEBALL

Whittaker wins rematch

By PATRICK ROSE
Associated Press

CHICAGO — Robert Whittaker barely got the fight to the judges before they handed him a win in a grueling rematch.

Whittaker survived a staggering blow in the fifth round to beat Yoel Romero in a split decision at UFC 225 on Saturday night.

Whittaker (21-4) won despite being outworked in the fifth. He was shaken up after taking a hard left hand from Romero (13-3) early in the round, and the fight was scored 48-47 by all three judges, one in Romero's favor.

Whittaker also injured his right hand in the first round.

"Yoel hits like a truck and I just had to try and survive and make the comeback," Whittaker said. "I could have seen it going any way because it was tight, but I hit him a lot and I thought I did enough to get three of the five rounds. It was a really tough fight but I want to go back and talk to my team and see what we think should be next."

The fight was in jeopardy when Romero missed weight at 185 pounds Friday morning. Romero was one pound over in the first weigh-in, then .2 over in the second and final weigh-in. The fight was originally for the middleweight championship. The duo fought anyway, but without a belt on the line.

"It's a long flight to Chicago. If I travel 22 hours, I'm fighting someone, mate," said Whittaker, who is from New Zealand.

Romero was tentative in the first round, and Whittaker damaged his right eye in the second with a kick. Romero then exploded in the third, landing a left and bringing down the champ. Romero controlled the third round with a series of combinations, but Whittaker was able to land two significant kicks.

Whittaker kicked Romero below the belt in the fourth round, which put a halt to the fight for about a minute. Whittaker regained control in the fourth, but Romero landed a hard left and right late in the round. In the fifth, Romero controlled the round, bringing down Whittaker with a series of left hands, then pounded with a right hand.

At UFC 213, Whittaker gutted out a grueling 25-minute brawl against Romero with all three judges scoring it 48-47.

This card featured five current and former UFC champions in front of a sold-out United Center crowd. In the co-main event, Colby Covington (14-

1) defeated Rafael dos Anjos (28-10) for the interim welterweight championship in a unanimous decision. Covington controlled the five-round title fight by outstriking the former lightweight champ.

The outspoken Covington called out current welterweight champ Tyrone Woodley. Woodley has lost out indefinitely with a shoulder injury.

"This moment is exactly what I dreamed of," Covington said. "This is what I've been saying all week, to all the media, to all the fans. This is my moment and nobody can say anything about it. I'm the new money fight in UFC. Tell Tyrone Woodley that his time is up. This is the real belt."

In his second pro fight, former WWE star CM Punk, a Chicago native, had the crowd chanting his name in the first round, but Punk was unable to show any sense of force in the cage against Mike Jackson (1-1). Jackson peppered Punk (0-2) with punches to the face throughout the fight and won in a lackluster unanimous decision. Punk, who was featured on the main card, didn't help his standing with the UFC after two disappointing showings.

Another Chicago native, Curtis Blaydes, kept climbing the heavyweight rankings with an impressive second-round TKO of Alistair Overeem. Blaydes (10-1-1) dropped Overeem (43-17-1), then damaged the No. 2 contender's face with a series of elbows before the fight was stopped.

Former heavyweight champ Andrei Arlovski (27-16) lost in a slugfest to Tai Tuivasa (10-0). All three judges scored it 29-28. Holly Holm (12-4), former bantamweight champ, was impressive with her ground and pound game beating Megan Anderson (8-3) in a unanimous decision.

In a flyweight fight, Sergio Pettis (17-3) defeated No. 1 contender Joseph Benavidez (25-5) in a split decision. Pettis' striking game was the difference as he bounced back from a unanimous decision loss to No. 2 contender Henry Cejudo.

Former light-heavyweight champ Rashad Evans took a right knee to the face, followed by a right hand by Anthony Smith (29-13) before the fight was stopped in the first round as Evans (24-8-1) lost his fifth straight fight.

During the card, the UFC announced former UFC bantamweight champ Ronda Rousey will be inducted into the UFC Hall of Fame on July 5 in Las Vegas. Rousey was the first female fighter signed by the UFC and had six consecutive title defenses.



GERY BROOME/AP

North Carolina players celebrate after defeating Stetson on Saturday in an NCAA super regional game in Chapel Hill, N.C. The Tar Heels won 7-5 to advance to the College World Series.

NCAA super regionals

Beavers, Tar Heels advance to CWS

By ERIC OLSON
Associated Press

Oregon State and North Carolina became the first two teams to advance to the College World Series, completing sweeps of their best-of-three NCAA Tournament super regionals Saturday.

No. 3 Oregon State advanced after Adley Rutschman's two-run, bases-loaded single in the top of the ninth lifted the Beavers to a 6-3 win over No. 14 Minnesota. The Beavers are in the CWS for the second straight year and sixth time since 2005.

The No. 6 national seed Tar Heels scored four runs in the first inning and hung on to win 7-5 over No. 11 Stetson. Carolina will make its first trip to the CWS in Omaha, Neb., since 2013.

Vanderbilt and Cal State Fullerton forced Game 3s in their series. JJ Bleday hit a walk-off home run in the ninth inning to give the Commodores a 4-3 win over Mississippi State, and Tommy Wilson pitched seven strong innings to lead the Titans past Washington 5-2.

In super regional openers, defending national champion and No. 1 overall seed Florida beat Auburn and top draft pick Casey Mize 8-2; Tennessee Tech closer Ethan Roberts held No. 13 Texas to one run in four innings in a 5-4 win; Big 12 freshman of the year Gabe Holt drove in the go-ahead run in the eighth inning to lead No. 9 Texas Tech past Duke 8-4; and Carson Shaddy drove in four runs in No. 5 Arkansas' 9-3 win over South Carolina.

Oregon State trailed most of the game in Corvallis, Ore., and tied it 3-3 in the eighth on Kyle Nobach's base hit. Minnesota star freshman reliever Max Meyer walked the bases loaded in the ninth. Rutschman's single off Jackson Rose and hit a batter made it a three-run game.

Christian Chamberlain, who struck out five of the eight batters he faced, and Jake Mulhol-

land combined for three innings of shutout relief.

North Carolina, playing at home in Chapel Hill, survived ninth-inning drama for the second straight day to secure its seventh CWS berth and 11th overall. With runners on first and third and two outs and the go-ahead run at the plate, Stetson's Brooks Wilson sent a high fly to center field that Brandon Riley caught at the warning track for the final out. On Friday, with Stetson down three runs, the game ended when Wilson flew out to the wall in left with the bases loaded.

Mississippi State, which won on Elijah MacNamee's walk-off homer Friday, led Vanderbilt 3-2 until Ethan Paud tied it with a single in the eighth. The Commodores won it when Bleday drove a 2-0 pitch from Zach Neff over the wall in center field.

Wilson held Washington to one run and three hits over seven innings in Fullerton, California. The Titans took a 4-1 lead in the fifth when Daniel Cope doubled and scored on Jaiirus Richards' triple and on Brett Borgogno's RBI single. Joe Wainhouse homered twice for the Huskies.

Wil Dalton drove in two runs and Deacon Liput homered for the second time in three games in Gainesville, Fla., putting the Gators within a win of their fourth straight CWS. Brady Singer, matched against his fellow first-round draft pick in Mize, struck out nine and limited Auburn to two runs and four hits in 6²/₃ innings.

In Austin, Chase Chambers and David Garza doubled to drive in Tennessee Tech's three runs in the fifth inning for a 5-3 lead, and Roberts retired the last six Texas batters after a sacrifice fly made it a one-run game in the seventh. The Golden Eagles are one win away from their first CWS after having never advanced past regionals previously.



JIM YOUNG/AP

Robert Whittaker, right, kicks Yoel Romero in the face during their middleweight title mixed martial arts bout at UFC 225 on Saturday night in Chicago. Whittaker won in a split decision.

AUTO RACING/FRENCH OPEN/WORLD CUP

Dixon leads last 119 laps for IndyCar win

By STEPHEN HAWKINS
Associated Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — Scott Dixon didn't spend much time sharing the spot with Michael Andretti for the third-most wins in Indy-car history.

A week after a matching victory, Dixon led the last 119 laps in the IndyCar Series race at Texas on Saturday night to move ahead of Andretti with career win No. 43.

"It's really cool. Obviously I have massive respect for a lot of these drivers," Dixon said. "But when you look at those names, A.J. Foyt, Mario Andretti, Michael Andretti, the Unsters, to me it still seems very strange that Dixon is on that list too."

Dixon trails only A.J. Foyt's 67 wins and Mario Andretti's 52.

After taking the lead on the 1½-mile Texas oval in the 248-lap race, he never gave it up. It was Dixon's third victory at Texas, a week after he won the first of the two races at Detroit.

"The car was just stuck," Dixon said. "Whatever we did, the car was just nailed. It was a bit loose at times, but I can't thank the team enough. The pit stops were fantastic."

Before separate late incidents involving Will Power and Ed Carpenter, the top two finishers at the Indianapolis 500, Dixon was close to lapping the field.

IndyCar said Power and Carpenter both would be penalized for avoidable contact with rookie drivers.

Power held the points lead coming into the race, but Dixon took it away with his 4.3-second win over Simon Pagenaud. Alexander Rossi finished third, with James Hinchcliffe and Ryan Hunter-Reay rounding out the top five in the first night race of the season.

"It's so fun to come here, because you never know what you're going to get except Scott is going to be fast and Team Penske is going to be on pole," Rossi said. "A few common threads."

Team Penske swept the top three qualifying spots. Pagenaud started and finished second, while polesitter Josef Newgarden, who was 13th and Power finished 15th.

The win gave Dixon a 23-point lead over Rossi after nine of 17 races. Power was third, 36 behind Dixon.

"It's not bad," Dixon said. "But it's going to be hard to hold onto. We'll see how the next races go. The car has had good speed all season and we'll try to keep it going."

Power, who won at Texas last year, was running in the top 10 on lap 205 when he made contact with Zachary Claman De Melo. Claman De Melo was high on the outside coming out of Turn 4 when Power slid up heading toward the front stretch.

"It was not the guy on the outside's fault. I didn't know he was out there at that point," Power said. "We were lifting so much trying to save fuel and he got outside of me. It was just a bad deal."

On lap 173, Carpenter made contact with Robert Wickens. Heading off the backstretch into Turn 3, the two were side-by-side low on the track when they made contact as Wickens tried to pass on the inside.

Wickens led 31 laps while Carpenter was never a factor up front at the Texas track where he won in 2014. Carpenter, who drives only ovals for the team he owns, was racing for the first time since finishing second at Indianapolis.

"I thought I could lose the door, but it was a big mistake on my part," Carpenter said.

Prospect of 2022 World Cup jumping to 48 teams fading

By ROB HARRIS AND
GRAHAM DUNBAR
Associated Press

MOSCOW — The prospect of the 2022 World Cup in Qatar growing to 48 teams faded Sunday after a discussion of the thorny issue was pulled from the agenda for FIFA's annual congress.

Plans for a feasibility study were put on hold after Qatar World Cup head Hassan Al-Thawadi addressed the ruling council of world soccer's governing body and FIFA President Gianni Infantino said agreement from the Gulf nation is a precondition.

Having previously said he was keen on an adding 16 teams, Infantino is now casting doubt on the possibility of further disrupting preparations for the Qatar tournament.

The FIFA Congress, which features up to 211 football federations, will now have no say in

the number of teams at the tournament in Qatar. Infantino said there would be no change in the number of finalists once qualifying begins, which is likely in early 2019.

"The final decision is that the council will decide," Infantino said after Sunday's council meeting in Moscow. "But obviously it cannot decide this without the agreement with the hosts of Qatar. That's a precondition obviously."

Qatar is building eight stadiums to host the Middle East's first World Cup and 12-14 venues would be required to accommodate 48 teams. That would only realistically be possible if Qatar shared hosting duties, which is problematic because its Middle East neighbors severed ties with Qatar in a diplomatic dispute last year and because it would be a significant change from the plans FIFA voters agreed to in 2010.



MICHEL EULER/AP

Spain's Rafael Nadal celebrates winning the men's final of the French Open against Austria's Dominic Thiem in three sets 6-4, 6-3, 6-2, at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris on Sunday.

Nadal wins 11th title by beating Thiem in 3 sets

By HOWARD FENCHER
Associated Press

PARIS — As Rafael Nadal and Dominic Thiem warmed up before the French Open final, the booming voice of an announcer at Court Philippe Charrier called out each player's bona fides.

Nadal's introduction included a year-by-year accounting of every time he'd already won the title at Roland Garros. The crowd responded, initially offering polite applause, then adding their voices, rising into a full-throated roar.

Go ahead and 2018 to the lengthy list. Nadal won his record-extending 11th championship at the French Open on Sunday, overcoming a late problem with a finger on his racket-swinging hand and displaying his foe-rattling best for a 6-4, 6-3, 6-2 victory over No. 7 seed Thiem, the only player to beat the Spaniard on clay over the past two seasons.

Up a break at 2-1 in the third set, Nadal stopped serving after a fault because he couldn't straighten his left middle finger. At the following changeover, Nadal was given a salt pill by a doctor and had his left forearm massaged by a trainer.

"Tough moment in the third set when I got a little bit cramped on the hand," Nadal said. "I was very scared."

Nadal's form never wavered, though, and soon enough he was celebrating his 17th Grand Slam title overall, second among men only to Roger Federer's 20. The two stars have combined to win the past six majors.

The victory also allowed the 32-year-old Nadal to hold onto the No. 1 ranking, just ahead of Federer.

Nadal called it "not even a dream" to gather 11 titles in Paris, saying it was "impossible to think of something like this."

Thiem, a 24-year-old from Austria, was appearing in a major final for the first time. Not much more of a daunting task than doing so against this particular opponent at the French Open, where Nadal is now 11-0 in finals and 86-2 overall. The only losses came against Robin Soderling in the fourth round in 2009 and Novak Djokovic in the quarterfinals in 2015.

"What you did and what you are doing," Thiem told Nadal during the trophy ceremony, "is one of the most outstanding things that any athlete is doing in any sport."

If there were any reason for a bit of intrigue entering Sunday's match, it was this: Thiem beat Nadal in two sets on red clay at Rome in May 2017 and again at Madrid last month.

"I am sure you will win here in the next couple of years," Nadal told Thiem afterward.

Nadal is so dominant and so impervious on clay, in general, and at this tournament, especially, it made sense for Thiem to go for broke as much as possible, accepting that there would be risks along with the rewards. If standard play would likely lead to a loss, why not try for the spectacular, instead?

So that's what Thiem tried. He pounded huge serves, topping 135 mph — about 25 mph more than Nadal's fastest — and that translated into seven aces, but also five double-faults. He attempted drop shots; some worked, some didn't. And he took the biggest of big cuts on his groundstrokes, his feet leaving the ground as he threw his whole body into them, as if

the very outcome of the match — not any individual point, but the whole shebang — depended on the strength of that one whip of his white racket. That led to 34 winners (eight more than Nadal), but also 42 unforced errors (18 more than Nadal).

It worked. For a bit. Thiem stayed with Nadal in the early going on a cloudy and steamy afternoon; the temperature was 77 degrees, the humidity approached 70 percent. Midway through the opening set, Nadal's shirt was so soaked with sweat it stuck to him, so he changed into a fresh one at a changeover, drawing catcalls from spectators.

From 4-all, 15-all in the opening set, Thiem faltered. After Nadal held there for 5-4, Thiem basically handed over the next game — and the set — by making four mistakes in a row. A volley into the net. A forehand wide. A forehand into the net. A forehand long. Just like that, Nadal was off on a five-game run that put him up 3-0 in the second set.

Soon, Nadal was finding his spots. One down-the-line forehand winner landed right at the baseline and Thiem's shoulders sagged as he muttered to himself. Another forehand winner from Nadal followed, and this time Thiem looked up toward his coach and yelled.

The conditions might have contributed to the cramping that affected Nadal about two hours into the final. His finger bent awkwardly and he pulled it at. He removed the taping from his left forearm, and maybe that let the blood flow better. After guzzling water during his visit from the doctor, Nadal was back to playing his unmistakable brand of nearly unbeatable clay-court tennis.

SPORTS



C'est magnifique
Nadal rolls past Thiem for 11th French Open title » **Page 31**

BELMONT STAKES

Justify, right, with jockey Mike Smith up, crosses the finish line Saturday to win the 150th running of the Belmont Stakes and the Triple Crown in Belmont, N.Y. Gronkowski (6), with jockey Jose Ortiz up, was second.

Julio Cortez/AP



CLEAN SWEEP

Justify leaves Belmont field in his dust to become 13th Triple Crown winner

By **BETH HARRIS**
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Justify defied all the odds on his way to achieving Triple Crown immortality.

The late bloomer won the Belmont Stakes by 1¼ lengths on Saturday, giving the sport its 13th Triple Crown champion. American Pharoah ended a 37-year drought in 2015 and now just four years later, racing is celebrating another sweep of the Kentucky Derby, Preakness and Belmont.

Justify began his racing career on Feb. 18, a scant 77 days before the Derby. He won his first three races by a combined 19 lengths, making trainer Bob Baffert a believer.

The big chestnut colt with the appetite to match burst onto the national scene with a 2½-length victory on a sloppy track in the Derby. Two weeks later, he survived a challenge in the fog-shrouded Preakness, winning by a half-length, again in the slop to set up a Triple Crown try.

"The raw talent is there," Baffert said. "He just came on there and broke every curse there was. It was meant to be."

On a cloudy 80-degree day at Belmont Park, Justify proved a cool customer.

He didn't flinch when greeted by 90,327 roaring fans as he walked onto the track. He stood so quietly in the starting gate that jockey Mike Smith wondered if he'd respond when it sprang open.

Did he ever.

Justify led all the way in achieving one of

the sports world's toughest feats 45 years to the day that Secretariat won the Belmont by a record 31 lengths. Baffert called Justify one of the all-time greats.

"I think he's the greatest of all time," Smith said. "I just won the Triple Crown, man. He's my champion."

Justify accomplished a lot in a very short time.

At 6-0, he joins Seattle Slew in 1977 as the only two undefeated Triple Crown

SEE SWEEP ON PAGE 27

Whitaker beats Romero in split decision » UFC, Page 30

